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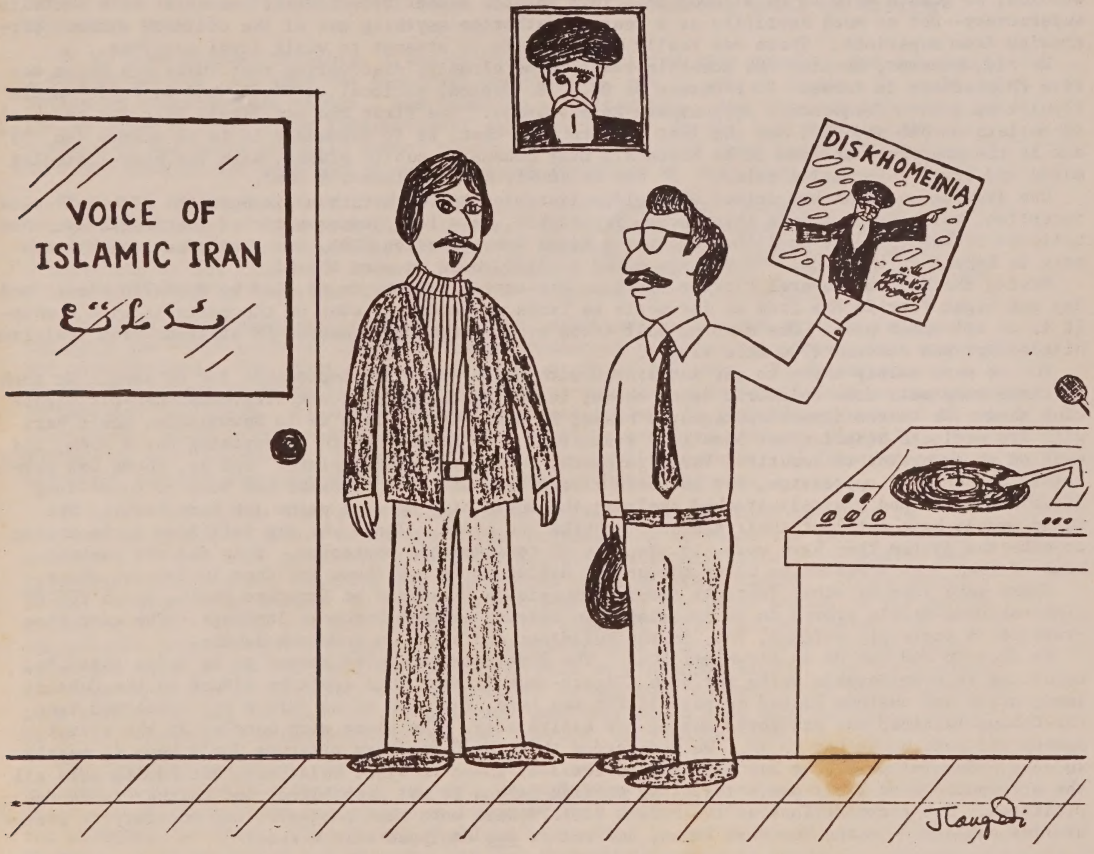
REVIEW OF INTERNATIONAL BROADCASTING



Edited and published by Glenn Hauser

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Issue Thirty-Five Jan '80

REPORT FROM CUBA

by Glenn Hauser

Florida MW DXer Ron Schatz and I paid a 4-day visit to Habana Dec. 24-28, via Tropicana Tours out of Miami. Cuba proved to be a paradise for a bah-humbugger such as myself; I only regret that there was no time to listen to the BBC Christmas specials on the ICF-5900W I took along. Cubatur left us some free afternoons and evenings, one of which was spent attempting to visit RHC (which is on the top floor of the Radio Progreso building--you'd never find it by looking for RHC signs, because there aren't any). In response to an earlier inquiry, "Maria Montero Triana" sent Ron a friendly but noncommital letter. I put her name in quotes because we still have no evidence she exists--we were told she was on vacation in Oriente. We managed to talk for a few minutes in the anteroom with two RHC staffers, including English announcer Mike Laguardia, but because of 'construction' in the studios, no guests were to be allowed in. This was the extent of our brief encounter with socialist bureaucracy--not so much hostility as a fear to authorize anything out of the ordinary without permission from superiors. There was really no time left to attempt to visit local stations.

We did, however, monitor the domestic radio scene closely, discovering that there are three active FM stations in Habana: R. Progreso on 92.1, R. Musical Nacional on 93.75, and R. Enciclopedia Popular on 94.9+ (frequencies approximate as measured). The first two are likely STLs for parallel AM outlets on 690 and 950, but the last is more than that, as it announces it is in stereo (on "95") and is the preferred station to be heard all over Habana in public places, with its easy-listening music and brief informative talks. It too is simulcast on mediumwave 1060.

One evening our tour bus driver was boldly listening to VOA-Marathon (in Spanish) with bell-clear reception, but before we left this became impossible, as a tone jammer attacked the frequency. Ron believes it was formerly on 1140 against the Miami Cuban station WQBA, but that's no longer necessary in Habana as the local 790 station moved to 1140 while we were there!

During the daytime several Florida stations are easily audible on AM, led by WGBS-710 Miami; and day and night Florida FMs from as far north as Tampa are audible, even on the portable with a whip--it is an all-water path. One morning Gulf tropo even brought in numerous FM stations from Louisiana Mississippi and Alabama (700 mile range).

But we were mainly there to get acquainted with Cuba--something impossible for so long. We took in three very well done folkloric dance shows, including the magnificent Tropicana open-air night-club show. We toured Ernest Hemingway's house; El Morro fort; Plaza de la Revolución; Lenin Park with its mediocre aquarium but beautiful restaurant "Las Ruinas" which is anything but a ruin; and went on an excursion to beautiful Varadero Beach, among many other things. For us, there was certainly no sense of oppression, but we could clearly see what the blockade had done to Cuba--long lines at stores and sparsely-stocked shelves; the whole city needs a paint job very badly. The Cuban people have not lost their senses of rhythm and humor. Those who are left seem to be trying to make the system they have work, in the face of considerable obstacles. This did not prevent some of them from approaching us on the street asking us to buy items for them in tourist shops.

There were lots of other tourists around, especially Canadians at Varadero beach; but a lot of light-skinned people proved to be speaking some obscure eastern-European language. The east-bloc presence is certainly evident, too, in the buildings and signs in downtown Habana.

We flew in and out on an Air-Miami DC-3. The departure schedules seemed to be quite flexible, resulting in considerable waits for both flights--but I think this can't be blamed on the Cubans. Immigration and customs caused us very little red tape, tho some of us were a bit concerned that the Cubans retained our passports during our entire stay. The visas were handled by the travel agency and were no bother to us. We understood that the Cuban-born visitors don't have it nearly so easy. Several people on our flight were actually going to visit relatives, but had to make all the arrangements on their own. Traveling outside Habana is not prohibited, but neither is it facilitated. Our accomodations at the Habana Riviera were more than adequate, and contrary to scare-stories published in the New York Times, our toilet was equipped with a seat!

THE BELGIUM LOGO (Dec RIB cover) EXPLAINED. (Jim Conrad:) A light was attached to David Monson's coattails and a five-hour time exposure showed his path. (Kim Andrew Elliott:) It's a schematic diagram of David Monson's stream of consciousness. (Maxfield Greenwood:) Happiness would be having an antenna like that. My neighbors and white coats be damned; I'm going to hear LRA-36 if it kills me. (Syd Osterman:) Depicts a wire puzzle which, when positioned correctly, simply falls apart. This is imposed on a world map. Meanings: 1) It's easy to hear ORU if you know how ! 2) It's a puzzle to find Belgium on the map, unless you know where to loook ! 3) Belgium itself is a puzzle ! 4) I dunno !

THIS MONTH's COVER is by Joe Tangredi. Now, people, let's have some clever captions!

AN ALTERNATIVE APPROACH TO INTERNATIONAL BROADCAST PROGRAMMING

by Kim Andrew Elliott*

About two years ago, I tuned in at the beginning of an English-language international broadcast beamed to North America. I do not remember which station it was; suffice it to say it was one of the "typical" half-hour broadcasts directed to this continent. Being an aficionado and student of international radio, I decided to listen carefully to the entire 30-minute transmission and to absorb what the station had to say. But in barely five minutes I found myself sound asleep, not reawakening until the closing signature tune.

In my post-slumber thoughts, I was at first disappointed with myself. But eventually I considered the fact that the broadcast programming, not I, was at fault. It could not retain my interest even though I had vowed to pay attention. And this broadcast was not unlike those of most other international radio stations. Do the international broadcasters of the world actually expect people to listen to what they transmit? Do they have any idea of how many people really do pay attention to what they say?

It was at that point that I began a program of research and rumination which led to my recent University of Minnesota Ph.D. thesis ("An Alternative Programming Strategy for International Radio Broadcasting," 1979). My investigation of international radio programming is not finished; indeed, it has hardly commenced. But I would like to take this opportunity to share the thoughts I have collected up to this point.

The traditional programming approach. The investigation started with an attempt to identify the basic patterns of international broadcast programming. Three main tendencies are hypothesized. The first two deal with the style of delivery: 1) International broadcast content tends to be read carefully from scripts, with very little extemporaneous or impromptu delivery. 2) International broadcast content is generally presented in an impersonal, third-person mode (as opposed to first-person presentation, directly addressing the listeners). The third tendency deals with content: 3) International broadcast content stresses political or politico-economic matters.

It is my contention that programming characterized by these three patterns is responsible for the failure of international broadcasting to reach its full potential audience, because such programming does not attract and retain listener attention and interest. Let us first consider the traditional style of presentation. Third-person script reading is an attempt to apply content suited for the print medium to the aural medium of radio. This practice simply does not work; it is an ineffective way to communicate through speech (especially via long-distance radio). There are many more effective ways to use the radio medium (these will be discussed below). As for content dwelling on political matters, such programming brings most international radio listeners much more political information and analysis than they could ever want or need. There is an information overload causing fatigue, boredom, and inattention.

The intended audience. The critique of traditional international broadcast programming offered in the previous paragraph assumes the existence of a certain type of audience. There are at least three categories of international radio listener. The first is the hobbyist, or DXer. This person would be interested in the technical "sport" of long-distance radio reception and measures his/her listening prowess by recording the number of stations or countries heard. Such a listener is interested more in radio signals than in radio programming and probably would not be of much use to the international broadcaster.

A second type of listener is the political listener. This is a serious listener, dutifully tuning in foreign broadcasts for information and opinion about current affairs, especially international political matters. This is the type of person many international stations seem to have in mind in their programming design. The problem is, at least in the United States, and probably elsewhere, there is no evidence that political

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listeners exist in any but negligible quantities. Such persons (who might be journalists, government officials, scholars, business executives, etc.) tend to be very busy, having little time for shortwave listening, and get their international information from other (usually print) media. If they do listen, it would be briefly, for newscasts. The political listener is either as mythical as the unicorn or as rare as the albino gorilla.

The third type of listener is the general interest "armchair-adventurer." It is in this category that the international radio audience probably exists in any sizeable number. The general-interest listener listens to program content and has genuine interests in foreign places. His/her interests include but are not limited to news and political affairs; the general-interest listener has a finite appetite for news, background reports, analyses, and commentaries. It may be useful to look at the general-interest international listener as having somewhat the same motives as a person who travels abroad -- the tourist wishes to experience contrasting cultures and experiences and to get to know the people in the nation visited. International tourists do not, as a rule, get off the airplane and rush to the government buildings to discuss foreign policy esoterica.

The essential point is that the general-interest listener is not politically apathetic, but he/she does not tune in foreign broadcasts because of some pressing necessity to consume news and political talks from other nations. His/her interests in world places are more general. Furthermore, listening for the general-interest listener is a form of diversion, not work.

An alternative strategy. The skeptic may now be asking, "What good are these general-interest listeners to the international broadcaster and to the government sponsoring the station? International radio does not exist to entertain, but to inform and persuade, and this is most logically done by way of script-read, third-person, politically-oriented talks." My reply to the skeptic is that the widely-accepted assumptions of international broadcasting purposes and programming must be reassessed. The general-interest audience can be a great asset to the international broadcaster and its sponsoring government. I will now illustrate a strategy of international broadcasting appealing to the general-interest audience, using the fictitious nation of "Senderland" and its international broadcast voice, "Radio Senderland."

Radio Senderland adopts a programming design to appeal to the general-interest audience in its target regions. Thus, political content is balanced with content on other aspects of life in Senderland. The style of delivery is often extemporaneous, presented in a first-person mode, addressing the listener directly. For these and other reasons, Radio Senderland generates a sizeable audience listening on a regular basis.

In each of its 30-minute broadcasts in various languages, Radio Senderland has reduced the amount of news and political talk from about twenty minutes per day to about six minutes per day. But the amount of information conveyed by Radio Senderland is actually greater: a larger informational service is performed when six minutes of news reaches thousands of listeners than when twenty minutes of news reaches a few hundred.

These thousands of new loyal listeners, through their continued listening to and quasi-personal relationship with Radio Senderland, find themselves becoming more and more interested in the nation of Senderland. They seek out information about Senderland in their own domestic media and libraries. They write to the Senderland embassy for literature. They even start to take a greater interest in the informational programming of Radio Senderland. These loyal listeners are now more likely to consider the purchase of merchandise imported from Senderland. If they consider travel abroad, Senderland becomes a more likely destination; they especially want to shake hands with those personable announcers on Radio Senderland. (Radio Senderland now supplements its income by conducting periodic tours of Senderland especially for its overseas listeners.)

The above outcomes of Radio Senderland's alternative programming are all direct effects. They are important, but because the number of regular international broadcast listeners will be relatively small in any country, no matter how attractive the programming, such effects are limited in scope. The more important manifestation of Radio Senderland's alternative programming is what I call its "opinion reserve" potential. This is how "opinion reserve" works: The compelling programming of Radio Senderland has

created thousands of devotees of the country throughout the world (i.e., "Sendophiles"). Should Senderland ever find itself in acute economic, political, or military duress and in need of foreign assistance and support, Radio Senderland can make a special appeal (even an emotional one) to its international corps of listener-friends. Because Radio Senderland does not generally burden its listeners with persuasive messages, when it does make a solemn appeal, the loyal listeners take special notice (the benefits of not too often crying "wolf"). The loyal listeners would spring into action -- spreading the word to acquaintances, informing the local news media, organizing public demonstrations of support, and applying whatever possible influence on their own national governments.

Designing alternative programming. The problem, now, is designing programming capable of securing a substantial loyal audience of general-interest listeners. The broadcast must be interesting and attractive enough for the listener to pay attention the first time it is heard and to decide to listen again and often.

There are several ways that such compelling programming can be achieved. The BBC World Service and the CBC Northern Service have done this to some extent with various of their feature programs. But these organizations have the advantage of broadcasting in their native languages and being able to borrow from their respective domestic radio services. Most international broadcasting is in other than the sending country's native language; language section staffs are usually small and resources limited. In these cases, the international broadcaster must depend on the personalities of its "announcing" staff to gather a large, loyal audience.

The precedent for this personality technique was Rudy Espinal's now-defunct "This is Santo Domingo" (on Radio Clarin). Espinal, by using a conversational style so well suited for radio but non-existent in international broadcasting, single-handedly captured a significant faithful following among those North Americans who could hear Radio Clarin's signal. The only criticism of "This is Santo Domingo" is that it lacked somehwat in substance and tended to rely completely on listener mail.

Personality-oriented international broadcasting does not have to consist of lowest-common-denominator babble. It can be substantive, informative, and intelligent, but at the same time entertaining -- exploiting the intimate conversational rapport possible through the radio medium. The most difficult task for an international broadcaster is locating the person(s) who would fulfill this important "goodwill ambassador" task. This talent must possess certain qualities. First, s/he must be intrigued by the possibilities of the international broadcast medium and take sincere pleasure in communicating with foreign listeners. Second, the talent must be able to speak without relying on a script; s/he must be able to carry on an extemporaneous "dialogue" as well as possible via radio.

This international broadcast personality must take it upon him/herself to experience many facets of life and culture in the station's country and then recount these in an interesting and personal way to the audience. (The listener could consider these programs as the equivalent of receiving an interesting long-distance telephone call.) Our radio talent can not be a "private person" but must be willing to share his/her "soul" with the listeners. The listener then develops a quasi-personal, para-social relationship with the radio personality and subsequently develops an attraction towards the station's country.

There are several ways to conduct a personality program, and several approaches should be used by the international broadcaster to ensure variety. The talent can go out and experience an event, then return to the studio to recount it to the listeners. Or, the talent can use portable recording equipment to describe events on-the-spot (such as describing the movements of a city from an outdoor cafe, or narrating while walking through a museum, park, village, etc.). The on-the-spot technique would require excellent recording equipment to maximize audio quality (there are enough signal degradations on shortwave to begin with).

Interviews should be avoided. Interviews with various experts and persons-on-the-street constitute one of the great disasters of traditional international broadcasting. Interviewees are usually stiff, formal, boring, and have poor radio voices. And it seems that interviews are almost always recorded in acoustically-poor settings, exacerbating

the audio distortions inherent in long-distance radio transmission. If interviews are used, they should be tightly edited and limited to interesting respondents.

The international radio personality should discuss all aspects of life in the station's country -- social, cultural, occupational, scientific, political, etc.. Dialogue with the audience can be maintained by the periodic reading of listeners' questions and comments (and by accepting telephone calls), but the personality should not rely exclusively on audience input.

In addition to the personality program, there are other possible ways a small international broadcaster can gain and keep sizeable audiences:

Literature can provide an entertaining glimpse into the life of the station's country. Readings of short stories, serializations of longer fiction, and possibly the production of simple radio plays might attract a faithful following, although the appeal may not be as widespread as for the personality program.

Music may seem devoid of "informational" content, but it can be a very effective way to express the culture and feeling of a society. The problem with music in traditional international broadcasting is that it is mixed almost indiscriminately with talk programming. This means that the listener's mind is forced to shift back and forth, from talks requiring high concentration, to music involving low-concentration consumption. It is frustrating for a listener to commit his/her attention to an international broadcast, only to have to mark time while musical selections are periodically played. (Of course, a main complaint among North American shortwave listeners is the preponderance of western rock music presented by foreign stations, the same music amply available through the domestic stations on this continent. Some international stations feature their own countries' pastiches of western jazz, rock, etc., which can be even worse. International broadcasters should consider the benefits of bringing the listener styles of music not generally heard in his/her own country.)

Music in international broadcasting would be most appropriate in separate, ininterrupted periods of 30 or 60 minutes or more. Such programming would not have to be tied to any language; indeed, music would be considered a language of its own. Selection titles can be announced in printed schedules or in the regular "talk" programming in each language. Such musical programming would be worthwhile because my research indicates that several U.S. shortwave listeners use international broadcasting for low-concentration background listening while doing other tasks. Apparently, such listeners are satisfied with the audio quality of music via shortwave; they find music from distant lands to be a more fulfilling form of background accompaniment than that offered by local radio. Little is known about the subtle effects of background music on the listener, but it seems possible that a listener may develop an attraction for a nation which provides such musical companionship.

News and information would not be eliminated from programming utilizing the alternative approach. But, as mentioned before, five minutes of news to a large audience is better than twenty minutes of news to a small audience. Also, a brief opening newscast would serve the political audience; if the political audience does exist, its members probably do not have more than a few minutes each day to listen. Political analyses, background talks, and informational features can be placed in the schedule for those listeners interested in such content.

Implementing alternative programming. Three specific proposals for alternative international programming formats will be offered in this section:

•Daily 27-minute broadcast. A typical time length for international broadcasts is 27 minutes per day. An alternative-approach 27-minute broadcast could be structured as follows: First, six minutes of news about the sending country. Second, sixteen minutes of the personality program, as described and discussed above. Finally, five minutes are allocated to a daily informational talk on a particular topic; those listeners not interested in the topic can tune out -- but better that they tune out later in the broadcast than early in the broadcast. This 6-16-5 design can be complemented on weekends with an all-news-and-information broadcast, which could be presented on Saturdays and repeated the following Sundays.

•Daily 55-minute broadcast. Some international stations are give almost an hour each day to their various language sections. But it is not easy for a small staff to fill 55 minutes per day, 365 days per year. Thus, some music must be used to help fill the time. In this design, I suggest first a ten minute block for news and anlysis. This would be followed by thirty minutes of personality program, similar to that in the 27-minute broadcast but with the addition of music. The personality program would begin with several minutes of discussion requiring fairly high concentration. Then, as the listener begins to fatigue, the personality program would have less and less talk and more and more music; in other words, the 30-minute personality segment would gradually taper from talk orientation to music orientation. After the personality-plus-music program, the final fifteen minutes would be devoted to special-interest informational programs.

•Weekly 55-minute broadcast. Some international broadcasters with very limited staffs and resources might reach their audiences more effectively not by attempting a daily broadcast but by concentrating on an attractive weekly 55-minute (or 27-minute, or 85 minute, etc.) broadcast. Such weekly features could be supplemented with daily ten or fifteen-minute newscasts. The main feature of the weekly broadcast would be the personality program. Such a broadcast could be presented one day of the week and repeated later in the week.

Closing comment. The basic assumptions of international broadcast programming have gone too long unchallenged. Script-read talks have been attracting very small audiences. Perhaps this medium can better be utilized for "peace propaganda," using attractive programming to accumulate a worldwide community of individuals committed to international understanding. In this fashion, international broadcasters would emphasize less the reporting of past crises and would concentrate instead on helping to avoid the unthinkable crises of the future.

(The author welcomes comments. These should be sent to RIB for publication, or directly to: Dr. Kim Andrew Elliott, Department of Communication Studies, Machmer Hall, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, Massachusetts 01003 USA.)

CBS RADIO MYSTERY THEATER is now Monday-Friday only. Mon Jan 21, "Once Upon an Island" starring Norman Rose. A 'shining man' and a 'shining light' keep all residents of a small Caribbean island far away from a house unlived in for over 100 years. Tue Jan 22 "Complete Recovery" starring Mary Jane Higby. A rich elderly woman, who has been psychologically paralyzed, fears her son-in-law intends to murder her in order to get himself an early inheritance. Wed Jan 23, "The Forty Four", John Beal. A woman admits she killed a man with a .44 revolver, but the sheriff refuses to believe her. Thu Jan 24, "The Finger of God", Kristoffer Tabori. A young couple runs up against formidable odds when they decide to get married. Fri Jan 25, "The Ghost Driver", Mason Adams and Norman Rose. What appears to be a skeleton driving a car forces four people to crash and die, leaving one skeptic to confront the 'ghost' before he can kill again.

SEARS RADIO THEATER moves to Mutual in February and is renamed MUTUAL RADIO THEATER. Mon Jan 21, "Uncle Zora Comes to the Pig Festival", Marvin Miller, Virginia Gregg, Joan McCall. The eccentric uncle of one of the town's most respected women comes to town for its annual pig festival and teaches the town gossip a lesson. Tue Jan 22, "Fontaine Harris in Hollywood", Pat Buttram. In this second Fontaine Harris story, the con man moves to Hollywood with the profits of his latest sting--a fake movie company. Wed Jan 23, "The Ransom", Stephen Markle and Vic Perrin. A hard-working, honest plumber and a small-time hustler pull off the 'perfect kidnapping' but then realize they need the victim's help in order to collect the ransom. Thu Jan 24, "Reunion", Virginia Gregg and Parley Baer. A man and a woman --who were once young and in love--are reunited, 35 years later. Fri Jan 25, "The Value of a Hunch", Vic Perrin. A sheriff is suspicious of a new resident who doesn't want anyone on his property. (these summaries via gh)

(Gordon Byrd, The Skywave Bulletin) KCRL 780 RENO NEVADA is carrying half-hour dramatic shows six nights a week at 10:30 pm EST, according to Robert C. Yentema. Sunday, INNER SANCTUM. Monday, SUSPENSE. Tuesday, GREEN HORNET. Wednesday, GUNSMOKE. Thursday, SHERLOCK HOLMES. Friday, THE SHADOW. There may be changes from week to week.

WQXR-1560 NEW YORK publishes a monthly program guide, Ovation, which is available for a limited time only at $12/year. For more information write to 229 West 43rd St, NY NY 10036.

LISTENER INSIGHTS on PROGRAMMING

AFGHANISTAN (New York Daily News, Jan. 1, 1980)

Say Soviet faked Kabul radio

By JAMES WEIGHART

Washington (News Bureau) — The United States has evidence that the coup against Afghanistan President Hafizullah Amin was orchestrated from the Soviet Union and included fake, precorded broadcasts from secret radio transmitters in Russia, the State Department said yesterday.

Spokesman Hodding Carter 3d said that the first accounts of the coup "were clearly prerecorded" and broadcast from "inside the Soviet Union on stations claiming to be Radio Kabul while Radio Kabul was in fact carrying out normal broadcasting."

Carter said these clandestine broadcasts included a speech by new President Babrak Karmal, who announced that Amin had been replaced and executed, along with several others in the Amin government.

"The prerecorded announcements show that plans for the otherthrow of the Amin government were well under way at the time of the coup," Hodding Carter said.

The statement puts the lie to the Soviet claim that the introduction of up to 45,000 Russian combat troops into Afghanistan over the weekend was in response to a call for such assistance by the new government in Kabul. Karmal, Hodding Carter said, was in the Soviet Union, not Afghanistan, when the Soviet troops crossed the border.

The State Department yesterday had no firm evidence that Karmal was as yet in Kabul.

The giveaway: tune-up beeps before 0130 in typical Soviet style.

ALASKA (Clarence Wilson, Honey Grove TX) This is from World Radio News, of the White's Ferry Rd. Church of Christ in West Monroe LA. I don't know about the wisdom of building that far north. It would appear to me that Hawaii would have been a better choice. I don't know of any other SW stns in Alaska.

SHORTWAVE SITE BOUGHT IN ALASKA

By Gayle M. Crowe

ABILENE, Tex.—The World Christian Broadcasting Corporation has signed a contract on a 72-acre tract south of Anchorage, Alaska. On the site a 250-kw transmitter will be constructed, allowing broadcast of the gospel into Russia, Eastern Europe, China and other Far East nations.

World Radio News readers know well the place of radio on the mission field. Through shortwave broadcasting, millions who are searching have access to the saving news of Jesus.

Christians through the years have produced radio programs in many languages: Russian, Ukrainian, Korean, Chinese, Vietnamese, Thai, Telugu, Tamil, Czech, German, French, Spanish, Swedish and others. But for many of these there are difficulties in securing reliable and effective air time to the target peoples. World Christian Broadcasting Corporation proposes to erect powerful shortwave stations that will transmit a clear message to the masses.

WCBC is headed by a board of 10 Christian men: Ed Bailey (Lincoln, Neb.), George Bridges (Lawton, Okla.), Gayle Crowe (Chatham, N.J.), B. E. Davis (Abilene, Tex.), Maurice Hall (Whittier, Calif.), Ralph Immel (Dallas, Tex.), Pat McMahan (Anchorage, Alaska), Juan Monroy (Madrid, Spain), Cline Paden (Lubbock, Tex.), and Charles Whittle (Wellesley Hills, Mass.). Their backgrounds include radio, electronics, speech, communications, Slavic culture, foreign and domestic evangelism, and script writing. The board has no direct tie with any other brotherhood organization. An advisory group, made up of brotherhood leaders from across the United States, has been appointed.

Three Christians have already given their lives for this project: Hal Frazier, the late director of World Radio, was on a fact-finding mission for WCBC in the Caribbean with Lowell Perry and Ken Ferguson when they were killed in the crash of their private plane in early 1977.

WCBC will provide the facilities and equipment. Interested congregations throughout the world will provide programming suitable for a target audience, and "buy time" from WCBC to broadcast their messages. Thus, the programming will always be under the direct oversight of elderships and their congregations. Among others, the elders at White's Ferry Road in West Monroe, Louisiana, through their World Radio representatives, have expressed an interest in buying blocks of time.

The station will ultimately aid the work of missionaries in the field. As responses to the programming begin to filter in, missionaries will then have insights into the most fertile fields in which to begin their planting of New Testament churches.

The immediate goal is to build the first station on the Kenai Peninsula of southern Alaska, south of Anchorage. From that point, broadcasts of powerful signals can be transmitted into all of Russia, Eastern Europe, and some Far East countries. The second objective is a station, possibly in the Caribbean, to beam into Central and South America, Africa and Western Europe. From these two stations, 80 percent of the world's population may hear the good news of Jesus Christ!

In July of this year, WCBC negotiated the purchase of a 72-acre plot in southern Alaska. The site is on a hill that slopes gently toward the north and west, the directions in which the shortwave signals will be beamed. The land for the antenna is a muskeg flat that well supports good signal propagation. The price of the land totals $164,000, a good buy at Alaskan prices. WCBC must raise 50 percent of this, $82,000, by January 1, 1980, to complete the 50 percent down payment.

Much work has been done already. Churches in Alaska are solidly behind this effort. Christians there have done research into sites, zoning and construction. They are enthusiastic about the project. A telecommunication research firm in Fairbanks has prepared a detailed propagation study on the site to analyze climatology, topography, geology, seismic activity and other technical data. An application is being prepared for the FCC license, presenting the relevant technical and economic data. Various types of shortwave designs are being studied.

The needs of WCBC at present are three: First, this project needs the prayers of committed Christians.

Second, WCBC is looking for congregations to assume the oversight of blocks of programming additional to what is already available. People qualified to produce quality broadcasts need financial backing and oversight.

Third, there is an immediate need for the $82,000 down payment for the land near Anchor Point, Alaska. This will be the first step toward reaching the 1.5 BILLION souls in Asia and Europe who live within broadcast range of Alaska.

For further information, contact Dr. B. E. Davis, Professor of Communications, Abilene Christian University, Abilene, TX 79699; or Pat McMahan, elder of the Anchorage Church of Christ, 2700 De Barr Rd., Anchorage, AK 99510.

BBCMS Jan. 3 gives the schedule: 15305, 0445-1600. 11710, 0525-1700. 7235, 0125-0500 & 1700-1930. 6190, 0125-0430 & 1600-1930.

(Toronto Globe & Mail, Dec. 13, via Syd Osterman)

Afghanistan

Radio Moscow recently made a small but startling change in the format of its news broadcasts to Afghanistan. The news now ends with a short prayer, "God protect us." The odds are that this is an attempt by the Soviet Union to appeal to the hearts and minds of those traditional sectors of Afghan society, religious, feudal and tribal, that are now in revolt against the heavy-handed revolutionary government that is a dependent but undisciplined and troublesome Soviet client. But, although it is hard to verify the rumors that Soviet military advisers have been skinned alive by revolting rebel tribesman, it is at least conceivable that the prayer is an anguished Soviet response to the troubles and costs of the Afghan connection.

A L B A N I A (Ralf F. Munster, Decatur GA) Does R. Tirana hate everybody? Not quite. In connexion with Stalin's 100th birthday the YL presenting comrade Enver Hoxha's ideas from his autobiography quoted him heaping the most unqualified, downright fulsome praises on that great man, responsible for the starvation of tens of millions of Russian peasants and for carving up Poland between the USSR and the Nazi Germany of that other great leader, Adolf Hitler. Will an encomium to Hitler be next? Anyhow, we now know of somebody whom comrade Hoxha loves. (Heard Dec. 20 on 7080 at 0640)

(Syd Osterman, Toronto, Ont.) In Dec RIB, Page 7, Mike Tripka explains a 'distinct' New Zealand accent as "Australian witha touch of Cockney". It seems to me that Aussie speech is already an amalgam of accents from many areas of UKOGBANI, including cockney. I hear NZ speech as Aussie with the sharp edges rubbed off ! i.e. with an infusion of Oxford or BBC pukka English. Certainly not as strident as Aussie. I dunno ow yer git ter cockney mate ! Strewth I bleedin well don't !

A N T A R C T I C A (Creede Lambard, Billings MT) Lest there be any doubt about what Argentina thinks, I got a stamp from an Argentine ham last week with Argentina, Grahamland, Palmerland, South Shetlands and several other islands arrayed as though they were one group. The stamp is a 300 peso "Centenario del Instituto Geográfico Militar." Hmmm...

(Bob Foxworth, NY NY) Regarding gh's remarks, Dec. RIB, p. 7 regarding Argentina's control over part of the Antarctic, the unspoken assumption is that this is a recent event. Not so. Argentina has maintained this posture for decades, as witness a 1958 QSL card I have for an amateur radio contact between me and a ham on the South Orkney Islands. This 21 year old QSL card shows the "soberanía territorial Argentina" and depicts a number of bases including both Esperanza and Brown (which figured in the LRA-36 story). Of course the card proves nothing regarding LRA-36 but merely illustrates Argentina's long held attitude regarding the Antarctic which greatly predate the current Buenos Aires ruling regime. Argentina claims the quadrant 25° to 74° W all the way to pole.

gh: I was aware it was nothing new, but it's about time somebody made an issue of it, since Argentina is using LRA-36 to further its neocolonialist policy. While visiting Habana, a globetrotter in our group who had been to Esperanza base and several others in Antarctica, courtesy Lindblad (well before the Explorer went aground!) revealed that Esperanza was the most slipshoddily run of the bases, and that only the Argentines seemed to get a kick out of letting their dogs kill as many penguins as they liked.

A R G E N T I N A **S. ON**

TAL COMO OFRECIERAMOS EN NUESTRO BLX Nº3, BRINDAMOS A UDS. EN ESTA OPORTUNIDAD EL TEXTO DE LA APERTURA DE LU5 R.NEUQUEN QUE PUEDE CAPTARSE TODOS LOS DIAS A LAS 0900 GMT:

"El surco etéreo ya habla en sombras, buscando la vida recorrí el camino, y llegué a este lado de la geografía, sus valles, montañas, sus lagos...y este viento arisco rumor de zafiro.
Nada ha escapado a la mente del hombre del Neuquén, que no estuviera reflejada en su variada y contrastante geografía, alternando con un paisaje milenario y recogiendo el mensaje de las edades.
LU5 R.Neuquén clavó su mástil a orillas del río, su voz se hizo eco, canta con sus hijos, respetuoso en la diaria tarea, fue hilvanando pueblos de arenas y soles... de nieves y frío.
Las manos tutelares de la raza sentenciaron para el Neuquén, un destino venturoso, y el hombre quedó aprisionado en el triángulo encantado que bordea los ríos Limay y Neuquén, y su andina cordillera, su embrujo pudo más que su aridez y su nostalgia, y al fin, venció el hombre, cómo no habría de hacerlo!, cuando la poblaron hijos privilegiados y valerosos que a veces empuñaron la pluma y la espada, luego el arado y la siembra.
LU5 R.Neuquén ha interpretado el mensaje del destino, la herencia ancestral de los mayores, el mandato del espíritu, transmitiendo el pensamiento y la acción de nuestros hombres, honrando esta tierra y nuestro acervo.
Y así despertando en cada mañana, también recogemos el verbo profundo de nuestros poetas. Cuando el Doctor Egregorio Alvarez dice en su "Aspiración y Nostalgia": "He nacido en el Neuquén, místico edén de mi patria, entre dos ríos soberbios que en sus términos se enlazan. El Neuquén sórdido embate de enfurecida maznada y el Limay, lírico refugio del alma de la montaña. Donde la luz a raudales manda el sol en sus jornadas, para que luzca el hechizo de los lagos azul y plata. Donde la araucaria expande su ramazón embretada, para que entonen las aves bajo el palio, sus romances". (ESCUCHADO POR OA)

gh: Flowery sign-on department, continued. Argentine stations seem to be trying to out-do each other in the poetry of their messages. This one appeared in the Dec-Jan magazine of Asociación DX del Litoral. I'd translate it, but the point is the way it reads and sounds in Spanish. By the way, a regular RIB section in Spanish is in the works.

(Tony Jones, near Asunción, Paraguay) R. El Mundo on 1070 and 6120 kHz has an enjoyable program of folk music from all over Argentina following the 0000 GMT news summary: DEL FOLKLORE LO MEJOR.

A S C E N S I O N (from articles in Daily Mail, local Northampton and Gloucester press, via World DX Club Mid-month Express News Service, November 1979)

Miss Veronica Hermolle, 37, took her equal rights fight to an industrial tri-

bunal early in November. Miss Hermolle had reached the top of the list of Communications and Cypher officers who had applied for postings to the South Atlantic volcanic Ascension Island base. Her employers, the top secret Government Communications HQ, had refused her permission to go, on the grounds thatthere was no suitable accomodation for women and that it would be necessary for her to share in a block with five men. Ascension is the only all-male foreign station; they tend to live in a very informal atmosphere of walking around in varying stages of undress, and are quoted as giving the distinct impression that they would not welcome a lady in their midst. However it was made clear that women were engaged at other establishments on the island and no reason could be given as to why GCHQ should not provide accomodation without great fuss and expense. The tribunal found that the GCHQ had exercised unfair sex discrimination against Miss Hermolle and they must now take steps to convert one of the all-male dormitory blocks to allow her to live in privacy. A happy Miss Hermolle said that she was looking forward to going out to Ascension and had no qualms about working with an all-male society, something which she had done before during her ten years with the GCHQ, three of which were at the Washington station. The GCHQ are to consider an appeal against the decision.

A U S T R A L I A (BBC MS W.B.I., Dec. 20, 1979)

AUSTRALIA Radio Australia reported on 14th December that the Foreign Minister had announced that the Government would be undertaking a major English-language teaching course for China. It would be broadcast by Radio Australia starting at the end of 1982 when new transmitters near Darwin were scheduled to come into service. The broadcasts to China would comprise 104 lessons, supported by a bilingual course book. The instruction would supplement basic English courses already being broadcast on domestic radio in China. The lessons would be prepared by English-language experts from the Federal Department of Education and broadcast by English and Chinese specialist-instructors of the Australian Broadcasting Commission and Radio Australia.

(Wheeler Conover, Manchester KY) On Dec. 16 Keith Glover announced the disbanding of the R. Australia Listeners Club as of Jan. 1, and also announced a limited QSL policy--they will be sent out once a year during a certain month.

gh: About time RA tightened up; let's hope the programming improves as a result. CLUB FORUM was to be renamed but still hadn't been as of Jan. 12, when Glover mentioned that RA was shortly to get a new director, who had formerly been with ABC in Washington

(Chester Funnyé, Atlanta GA) Even tho R. Australia is one of my favourite stations, it could be better. All the time that they fill with music, they could make better programmes. I can hear the rock stuff they play on hundreds of mediumwave stations here in the USA. I will admit that they have some of the best programmes on SW, including mailbags, DX, and news.

(Don Moore, Bellefonte PA) Tuned in to ABC Melbourne at 1230 GMT (2330 local) on Dec. 31 to welcome in their New Year with them. With the exception of a brief and formal "Happy New Year" at 1302 sign off, the broadcast was treated as that of any other day. Disgusting party-poopers!! Perth was quite different, however. Tuned in at 1452 GMT (2252 local) and was treated to a variety of music and comedy pieces and announcers who were very upset at not receiving a phone call from Prince Charles. They ended 1979 with a bagpipe version of "Amazing Grace". 1980 was rung in with the chimes of Big Ben and then all those listening were invited to sign along to a tear-jerking "Auld Lang Syne". Excellent listening!!

(Philip Sauerlender, Alexandria VA) One of my favourite stations is Perth on 9610. I like to listen to it in the morning while preparing for work. It is however rather disconcerting to hear the evening show so early! Particularly noteworthy is the Thursday morning folk music show. Much is beautiful and very British. Some seems to be Irish in origin. Another surprise is to listen to a typical sounding Country & Western song, only to hear such words as wallaby and kangaroo. On a more 'cultured' level, one Saturday there was an excellent show on Al Jolson. My only complaint--it fades out quickly after sunrise. Too bad.

(Maxfield Greenwood, PA) Guess I'm a pretty sentimental guy, because SENTIMENTAL JOURNEY takes me to remembering and waltzing with that fair-haired gal so long ago--ah, those were the days. My Model T and my Arrow shirts and romancing after the frat ball; her dreamy eyes--- only one problem, I wasn't alive then. Guess it comes from watching all those old movies on the TV and playing all my parents' old 78s; when I was but a tot. Whatever, the show works, and I know of nothing else like it anywhere. It's truly a fine journey. Leading into their new year, there was a show very much like SENTIMENTAL JOURNEY. I listen to it from tune-in at 1230 to tune-out at 1400 when the ID was "FWF and the Country Network" What's that? gh: Programming originates at 6WF, Perth net HQ.

A U S T R I A (Funnyé, GA) Has anybody told ORF that 5945 and 9770 kHz just can't make it to North America. It seems to me that SWs should change the frequencies of stations that come in terribly. They also run the "Blue Danube" too long, causing unnecessary interference with other stations.

gh: They certainly have been told, repeatedly by myself and many others. "Holding" the frequencies is more important to ORF than being heard well in the evening. In the morning, at 1230, however, they have moved to 21655, which is doing very nicely indeed. They should never have left 13m.

B O L I V I A (Tony Jones, Paraguay) For up to the minute news of what's happening in the Bolivian Trade Union Movement, try listening to the daily news bulletin at midnight GMT from Radio 21 de Diciembre on 6081 kHz. If you cannot pick up this station at midnight, try 6034 kHz at the same time for the half-hour bulletin EL PANAMERICANO from the La Paz station Radio Panamericana. Another opportunity to hear all-round news from Bolivia can be had at 0200 over Radio Fides, on 4845 kHz. Failing all of these, try La Cruz del Sur's CHASQUI RADIAL at 2330 on 4875 kHz. Note: these schedules refer to Monday-Saturday, local; Sunday skeds differ considerably.

B R A Z I L (Roberto Levenstein, Madrid, Spain) I read in WDXC's November "Contact", quoting RIB, quoting "Atlantic Monthly" that A VOZ DO BRASIL is a badly produced propaganda programme "touting the 'miracle' of the country's advance" ... is it really? As far as I know, the first half-hour is devoted exclusively to Congress' daily activities, news about wholesale prices and a shipping forecast, while in the second half-hour congressists explain why they think such and such a law should be introduced. If that is to 'tout the country's miracle', broadcasting from Parliament or a President's Press conference is also propaganda.

(Levenstein, on the same subject, from Dec WDXC Contact) It is not badly produced. It is as the name implies, the "Voice" of Brazil's central government; it's one of the best-produced and best-presented all-news programmes in Brazilian radio. If people switch their radios off at 7 pm thruout Brazil, it is either because they are not interested in politics (I can assure you that those who are, don't switch their radios off) or because they have something else to do. Yes, Brazilian government requires every station to broadcast the programme, but so does the Spanish government with regard to the DIARIO HABLADO programme at 2 pm in Spain /and LA HORA DE MÉXICO there -gh/. One thing more: why do people always pick Brazil if they want to criticise a country? Have whoever wrote that comment in Atlantic Monthly ever heard of Benin, Mali or Togo?? All that these countries broadcast is propaganda-speeches, so, why Brazil? I am absolutely sure that if whoever wrote that piece heard one or two of Rio's or São Paulo's FM stations, he would be ashamed to tune to New York's 99X again, and I can prove it. All criticisms are welcome, as long as they are not 'free' or just made for the sake of criticising something. I am thankful to WDXC for bringing it to my attention but whoever wrote that and whoever said 'poor country' after reading it makes for such a strong letter, and I am sure U.K. readers would feel the same way if someone told lies about Britain.

(Don Shorock, Great Bend KS) This week's mail brought two interesting, if somewhat contradictory items--the December RIB with Bruce Berr's question about missing Radio Brás QSLs, and the other was--you guessed it--a QSL from Radio Brás. I couldn't include an IRC in my aerogramme, but I did make some comments, pro & con, and expressed an interest in Brazil. In response, I got an English schedule and one in Portuguese for the domestic shortwave on 11780. The QSL is printed on the back of a beautiful photo postcard showing the capitol in Brasília at sunset. To my way of thinking, no station captures as well the 'soul' of its country. The listener to Radio Brás quickly learns that music is the #1 priority. Everything else takes second place. It's a beautiful and typically Brazilian view of the world.

(Ralf F. Munster, Decatur GA) The reports are puzzling in that I received on April 4 a letter replying to mine of March 12, enclosing a QSL card, saying they would consider my programming suggestions; and enclosing a tourist chart of Brasília; a sticker; signed Reginaldo Azevedo. I had limited my report and comments to the main page of an aerogramme and enclosed no IRCs since that could be regarded as insulting at a government managed station, especially in the Latin American context. The plain white QSL card gave full details.

B U L G A R I A (Michael C. Tripka, Highland Hts OH) Radio Sofia's DX program is of uneven quality but occasionally turns out very well, as did the program Dec. 31 at 0430. If allowed to develop its full potential, this could become one of the really good DX programs.

C A N A D A (Bill Fait, OH) Since CBCNS is supposed to serve native peoples not served by local radio yet, what will become of it in the future? Why not turn the facilities of CBCNS over to RCI for the broadcast of CBC domestic programs to the world? I am fortunate that I live close to the border and can hear CBC programs from CBE 95.1 MHz FM, but much of the rest of the world must depend on CBCNS and RCI.

gh: See my article "Canadian Capers" scheduled for March POPULAR ELECTRONICS, examining options. By the way, with the February issue, the PE cover price dropped from $1.25 to 95¢. Imagine that!

(Ralf F. Munster, GA) Though one can obviously only agree with Mr. Sheldon O'Connell, the head of CBC NS, that they cannot consider the programming wishes of American listeners, even while they feel proud when its programs are warmly received abroad, one can nonetheless question his aim to

provide more and more native-language programming for a mere 5000 Inuit and 7000 Cree. If I interpret the CBC NS schedule correctly, out of a total weekday broadcasting time of 18:37 hours, 7:42 are devoted to native-language programs. This would appear to be enough for those older natives who do not know English. Beyond that it is not so much a question of imposing an alien culture on natives or giving them access to 'the finer aspects of Western culture' as a severely practical problem. Unless the intent is artificially to maintain these small native cultures in preserves that may ultimately resemble extended zoos, their members will have to learn English or French. Though some may find this hard to believe, it is an unfortunate matter of fact that unless an individual is exceptionally intelligent and has the opportunity constantly to use two languages, (s)he will be condemned to speaking, to say nothing of writing, both considerably less than perfectly. This may not matter for those Inuit and Cree who want to reamin in the North, but it will eventually matter a great deal for those who do not.

While I must admit that I had begun to wonder whether RCI shouldn't put Louis Goldstein on its payroll with some such exalted title as 'goof-up spotter' (hi), I couldn't help but notice that on Dec. 18 they lost their signal on 5960 from 2323 onward for about an hour with the announcer on the parallel frequency of 11710 in apparently blissful ignorance continuing to announce that they were relaying the CBC program on both frequencies. Since I didn't keep two receivers separately on these frequencies the whole time, I can't say for sure precisely when 5960 came back on, but by 2440 it was functioning again.

gh: Automation (pre-taped standard announcements) does not permit a station to react properly to short term problems. Sometimes they have enough trouble keeping up with long term changes....

(Louis Goldstein, Grove Hall MA) CBC RCI North American relay signal to us a disaster. Transmitters keep going off. Last night I taped W@6 & AIH on 11710 and when played back listened to transmitter going off more than on; ruined listening for me to CBC. Night before 5960 was off for entire program while 11710 was on. A disaster for devotees of CBC. Abbreviated relay to Europe has no hum and is more reliable.

In November heard Ian McFarland reply to listeners' complaints about tones interfering with last part of AIH relay on 15325. He responded that RCI engineers had determined offending station was Africa #1. The following week he recanted saying that Glenn had informed him that the truth was that it was a Russian station. Africa #1 did not start test transmissions till well after offended program was off air. On a more recent edition of DX DIGEST it was reported that Mr. McFarland had contacted the engineering dept after he had received complaints about last 3 minutes of AIH being substituted with RCI interval signal. This proves one thing--read RIB for the latest and true facts

By the way, Steven Freygood has a very good spot on RCI's African transmission with science news /immediately following DX DIGEST, Suns 1821 -gh/. This is in addition to his regular spot every Monday in the second hour of MORNINGSIDE on CBC NS, with Shortwave Corner /sometime in the 1505-1530 period usually on CBC NS -gh/. However, during January Freygood is off for another visit to Greece. Regret elimination of CBC PLAYHOUSE and apparent demise of JOHNNY CHASE and SUSSEX DRIVE. Wish SOUNDSTAGE could be heard better. Lots of interference then from more powerful stations.

On another edition of DX DIGEST Ian McFarland answered some complaints he had heard re the RCI evening transmissions on 5960 to Americas of WORLD @ SIX and AS IT HAPPENS. Do not know if this explanation covers the undulating hum. He said they had to cut signal to half strength because of the blowing up of a very expensive part of transmitter; it just went and the same thing happened more than once. As I understand it, the part is very hard to come by and cost about $20,000 each. Five of these capacitors blew within a period of four weeks. The 250-kW Sackville transmitters are at half power since Nov. 13.

(Syd Osterman, Toronto) I support the CBC! The taxpayers of Canada provide the operating funds for CBC, and its appendage RCI. I am pleased to be able to contribute a substantial sum to the treasury every year. Consequently, I have feelings about the CBC ranging through proudly parental or avuncular, to those of an irate taxpayer ! Depending upon their performance being good, bad or indifferent. I gather from the pages of RIB, that citizens of the USA have similar feelings regarding AFRTS and VOA Ditto for UKOGBANIANIANS and the BBC. In order to express my opinions pro or con, I am entitled to write, postage free, to my member of Parliament. However, in the case of CBC-RCI, it is obvious that the pages of RIB provide a much more immediate and effective contact ! Perusal of these same pages will reveal that I am quite prepared to praise when appropriate. Alas, the opposite so often seems apropos! Please bear in mind that the per-capita cost of funding the operations of the CBC is said to be the highest of any broadcasting organization in the world ! This being so, it seems logical to expect dedicated competence in both technical and program areas. In this respect it seems to be the absolute 'pits' of juvenile humour to suggest that I should refrain from listening to, and commenting about, programs on CBC-RCI. An organization that I am forced to financially support !

Re Dec RIB p. 8, I share Mr. Doidge's regret at the passing of Mr. Fred Scambatti, the well-

known sports commentator. By some oversight, only his nickname "Scooter" was given in the item. Phil Rizzuto, a former Yankee ball player was also called "Scooter" and was, I believe, also a sports commentator. Although only in baseball.

(Ian N. Doidge, Westmount PQ) Fred Sgambati, called "Scooter" by his friends, died November 23 after a year's battle with liver cancer. Sgambati, 58, once a college football referee, became a sportscaster in 1951 when he was hired by Foster Hewitt, the founder of CKFH Toronto and once the voice of the Toronto Maple Leafs. Scooter joined the CBC in 1957 and worked as commentator on TV and radio sports programs. His assignment included three olympic games, the Pan-American Games and World Hockey championships. In 1976 he received an ACTRA award as the best sportscaster of the year. In his spare time he was active in charitable and social organisations. The past three years he has been chairman of the Canadian Cancer Society. The irony of his role was not lost on him. He used to say after he learned of his illness: "In my talks to audiences across Canada I always included the point that we all have days when we ask the question 'Why me?' I then go on to say that we learn to turn the question around and ask 'Why not me?' because no one can say that he or she is immune from the disease of cancer. Little did I realize on those occasions the full impact of my words or that I would find myself testing the truth of the statement." He is survived by his wife and four children. (Adapted from Montreal Gazette, 24 November, from Canadian Press)

(Arthur S. Getzel, Flushing NY) On Dec. 16, RCI had a special program on "Star Trek--the Motion Picture". I have never heard such a biased program in my life over RCI. All they broadcast during the show were ovations--from none other than those looney "Trekkies" who waited in line in front of a Toronto theater for 24 hours. And of course an interview with William Shatner was heard, who happens, by coincidence, to be a Canadian!!! To give free publicity to a movie just because one of its actors is Canadian is in my view unethical--especially when you consider that most reviewers have given the picture thumbs down. Or as one reviewer put it, "A large boring object has entered our solar system..."

gh: Oh, come now, Arthur; Americans constantly need to be reminded that not all Americans are American! And The Movie is certainly a cut above your average Star Trek The TV Show episode. One should not condemn Star Trek because of the Trekkies. Transcendence is all too rare.

(Gordon Byrd, Tampa FL) Can't understand why RCI bumped your DX reports Dec. 17. Sure, WARC discussion took up most of DXD time, but could have fit in your report if they hadn't wasted time on that silly routine in the Canadian singles bar. The so-called Chicago lady's accent was not real; more like a NY or Bos accent; Chicago sounds like NYC only to uneducated foreigners (hi). Chicago has more of a nasal twang to it; perhaps from years of living in the shadow of stockyards?

(Don Moore, Three Mile Island DX Assn., PA) So CBC plans to spring a variety program on us. Personally, I have no plans to listen to a two hour a night, five day a week variety program just to find the hour or so of programming I would want to listen to. Not even Dr. Bundolo is worth that! Variety programs of this nature should be left on TV where they belong.

(Todd Thompson, Chula Vista CA) Well, here we go again! It's election time in Canada and that means RCI will be going all-night on Feb 19 GMT with its election converage. It should be fun to hear what happens now that Joe Clark and the Tories have had their turn. "Lucky Pierre" may get his job back after all. Whatever the result, it sounds like it's going to be a juicy campaign and with CBC NS, the AIH relay, and RCI, there should be no shortage of elections on SW. Go NDP!

gh: January brought a few more changes in the CBC Radio schedule. Nothing seems to last very long in the Sat. 11:30 a.m. slot (1630 GMT on CBC NS). GEE THAT'S A CUTE DRESS MARJENE was unceremoniously cancelled and replaced by the ever-ready BOB HARPER SHOW (a parody of call-ins, which has also popped up to fill other emergency vacancies). Now, CONQUEST has been revived for that time slot--a game show with countries as prizes. SUSSEX DRIVE has begun a new series, Thursdays at 8:04 pm. BOOKTIME Mon-Fri 10:20 p.m. Jan. 21 begins three weeks of "Settlers of the Marsh" by Frederick Philip Grove.

(N.Y. Times via Foxworth)

Peking Sets Radio Commercials

PEKING, Dec. 24 (UPI) — The Peking radio will broadcast commercials for foreign merchandise starting Jan. 1, a spokesman for the station said today. Seven 10-minute programs a day will be devoted to nothing but advertising.

C H I N A (BBC Monitoring Service World Broadcasting Information, Jan. 3) R. Peking announced 20/12 that in accordance with the government's policy of modernization and to promote foreign trade as well as scientific and cultural exchange, the Central People's Broadcasting Station would sponsor from January in its First and Second Programmes a broadcast in which commercials on various products and commodities would be presented. The Radio & TV Programme Journal would also start to accept advertisements. Anyone who wished to place an ad was asked to contact the Chinese Broadcasting Service Company, the Broadcasting Building outside Fuxing Gate, Peking (Telephone 868581 ext. 2522 - cable address 0731).

gh: Reports from listeners on the specific times of these ad blocks will be most welcome.

(Chester Funnyé, Atlanta GA) I find it pleasant to listen to the new Peking format. I don't believe everything I hear, but it is nice to hear anti-Soviet and -Vietnamese propaganda for a change. I find their mail correspondence good also, friendly without one word of anti-Americanism.

C U B A (BBCMS World Broadcasting Information, Dec. 20)

"RADIO LIBERTAD CUBANA" A radio station broadcasting in Spanish and calling itself "Radio Libertad Cubana" (Radio Cuban Liberty) was observed on 13th December at 0145 on 7088 kHz.

A station announcement claimed that "Radio Libertad Cubana" was "the only Radio Rebelde station broadcasting from the only little piece of free territory in the eastern mountaints of the Republic of Cuba". The announcer then apologised because the station had been off the air on 11th December for technical reasons, but regular programmes would begin at 0200 (13th December).

At 0200 the station announced that "Radio Rebelde and Radio Libertad Cubana were the information media of the Cuban armed forces which had risen in arms in the eastern mountains of the Republic of Cuba". "Radio Libertad Cubana" then carried two commentaries hostile to the present Cuban Government. Following this, the announcer stated that "Radio Libertad Cubana" would be on the air on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays at 0200. At 0220 the station announcer, who had identified himself as "Comandante David", allowed listeners five minutes to report on reception. Three or four radio operators replied.

Signing off at 0230, "Comandante David" said that the station's power was 1.8 kiloWatts and that he would be back on the air at 0200 on Saturday.

"Radio Libertad Cubana" was again heard on 7088 kHz on 15th December from 0200-0233. The transmission consisted of martial music, material hostile to the Cuban Government and news items mainly on Nicaraguan affairs. Station announcements added that "it was the only information medium of the Cuban Armed Forces which had risen in arms in Oriente and Camaguey Provinces. The station went off the air at 0233. However, between 0236 and 0251 "Comandante David" was heard on the same channel in communication with other unidentified radio operators. A similar broadcast was also heard from 0200 on 18th December.

(Ed. Note: some short-wave broadcasting publications indicate that this station has been in existence for about two years and that it may, in fact, be located in Florida, USA).

of R. Habana's propaganda. They think they can make up for it by offering contests, which include trips to Cuba. Any sophisticated listener should recognize this and shun these communist contests. All they want is for the listener to see the communist paradises; you know, the ones which have no unemployment, free medical care, no crime, no capitalist exploitation, etc. If this is so, why is Miami half Cuban? Just ask yourself.

gh: Because lots of Cubans preferred to be capitalist exploiters--it's just human nature.

(Harold Sellers, Scarborough Ont) I've noted that RHC announcers always refer to Pres. Jimmy Carter as "President James Carter". Another way of attacking the U.S., I guess.

(Mike Tripka, Highland Hts OH) CMKV Holguín 600 kHz had a program at 10:30 pm EDT /sic/ Dec. 13 on "reggae music, the sound of the Jamaican liberation struggle", which was intelligble here thru heavy QRM. I believe this is part of the Radio Rebelde network.

gh: No RIBber, myself included, has yet had the patience to monitor RHC continuously to determine the program timings. I did notice once that the 0100-0230 programs started over at 0230, so perhaps 90 minutes is their standard cycle, even though not all English transmissions are this length, or multiples of it. Anyhow, I picked up this (1979) RHC schedule in person during my December visit. I'll leave some space so you can write in times of any programs you find especially enjoyable, or the contrary.

Saturday	Sunday	Monday-Friday
TODAY IN HISTORY	TODAY IN HISTORY	the first five items
NEWSCAST	CUBAN PROFILE	are always the same:
SPOTLIGHT ON LATIN AMERICA	THE CUBAN STORY	TODAY IN HISTORY
FROM THE LAND OF MUSIC	FROM THE LAND OF MUSIC	NEWSCAST
CUBAN CULTURE	POST OFFICE BOX 7026	EDITORIAL
LATIN AMERICAN SONGS	PHILATELY IN CUBA	SPOTLIGHT ON L. AMERICA
SPORTS ROUND-UP		FROM THE LAND OF MUSIC

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
CUBA AND THE WORLD	VOICES OF REVOLUTION	CUBAN PROFILE
LATIN AMERICAN SONGS	TEMPO	LATIN AMERICAN SONGS
SOCIALISM: THE NEW WORLD	THE CUBAN STORY	SOCIALISM: THE NEW WORLD

Thursday	Friday
POST OFFICE BOX 7026	CUBA AND THE WORLD
TEMPO	LATIN AMERICAN SONGS
MARXIST REVIEW	SOCIALISM: THE NEW WORLD

RADIO HABANA CUBA

"1980--AÑO DEL SEGUNDO CONGRESO. PATRIA O MUERTE, VENCEREMOS!!"

C Z E C H O S L O V A K I A (Chester Funnyé, Atlanta GA) I wonder why R. Prague sent me a new program schedule without me writing for it. I guess they think I still listen to their lies. It is too bad that Prague has to be communist. The station plays some great folksongs and programmes are arranged in good order, but their propaganda messes everything up.

(Michael C. Tripka, OH) According to R. Sofia, Dec. 31 at 0430, R. Prague is having a listeners' contest to mark the 35th anniversary of liberation. "What have 35 years of peace and progress brought to Czechoslovakia?" Listeners are invited to answer the following questions: 1) Which Czechoslovak achievements of the last 35 years have been most impressive? 2) What is the level of relations between your country and Czechoslovakia, and what can be done to improve relations and remove barriers? Answers must be postmarked no later than April 20, 1980; winners will be chosen May 9-10, and will receive 10-day trips to Czechoslovakia, all expenses paid. Features will be broadcast on the subject from January 10 to April 20.

(Anon.) Authorities in Czechoslovakia are very much interested how the story got out about the Czechoslovak DX Circle and some of the ex-members were harrassed so much they gave up the hobby altogether. One of them has actually been detained.

C H I L E (Chester Funnyé, Atlanta GA) I laughed out loud when I heard that Chile jams R. Moscow. I was wondering why Moscow had a separate service for Chile. Now the shoe is on the other foot. It serves those rednecks right.

D O M I N I C A N R E P U B L I C (Mark Zutkoff, Timonium MD) One of my fond memories is hearing the Salsoul Orchestra used as fill during a Radio Clarín broadcast on New Year's Eve 1977! Speaking of which, whatever happened to Radio Clarín? It's that Santo Domingo powerhouse that, according to the last WRTVH, is still on 11700 kHz, 24 hours a day--but I haven't been able to receive them either in Maryland or Kansas since June 1978. Their English language announcer was Rudy Espinal; they had a fantastic Spanish Top-40 music program from 0400 on with a DJ named "Ruben Darío Apunte". That music show was called "The Happy City--The Happy Road to Daylight Time" in English, with both Spanish and French IDs by Espinal. Where'd they go? Does anyone know?

gh: Anyone certainly does. See the November 1978 POPULAR ELECTRONICS, or the April 1979 RIB. And one must not expect the WRTVH to remain current after it goes to press. Oct. 1978 is about the latest any info could be included in the 1979 edition.

F I N L A N D (Philip Sauerlender, Alexandria VA) I am rather amused over the fuss about Radio Finland's approach to QSL cards. Is it really important? I think it has obscured the fact that Radio Finland has some of the best programming on the air. Particularly noteworthy are NORDIC REPORT and the long Sunday morning program. Once they interviewed a very Finnish Santa Claus!

(Don Moore, Bellefonte PA) Well worth listening to alternate Sundays is R. Finland's feature of a Finnish short story. They are both well chosen and well read.

gh: R. Finland's January program guide, no longer prepared by Patrick Humphreys, has hardly any weekday details and nothing at all about what's on SUNDAY BEST. Jan 19-20 OUT & ABOUT is on Helsinki nights. Jan 20-21 VOICES is on composer & conductor Erik Lindström. Jan 23-24 & 30-31 SPOTLIGHT ON THE 70s, Parts 1 & 2.

F R A N C E (BBC MS World Broadcasting Information Dec. 6) France-Inter reported on 4th December that the first 'green light' had been given for the operation of local radio stations, but under certain conditions. The Minister of Culture & Communications had announced that an expriment in independent local broadcasting would start by the end of the winter. From the beginning of February 1980 and in the ensuing few months an independent radio network would be extablished in several regions of France. It would be a public service radio devoting itself to the reporting of regional and local news, and giving airtime to associations, elected representatives and the public.

G A B O N (Darryl Holland, Riverdale NY) Where the hell in Gabon is Moyabi? I have Hammond's exhaustive World Atlas which shows well nigh every back road in Gabon. No Moyabi. When I first heard Africa #1, some months back, I was so astonished I called Gabon (this part of NY has direct international dialling) and Libreville never heard of Moyabi. The operator suggested I ask the Paris operator for the phone number of Africa #1 in Moyabi, Gabon. The Paris operator was at a loss. (These information calls are free). What makes it so damning is the WRTH 79 lists Moyabi, Gabon but it doesn't seem to exist. I was just trying to get a schedule from the horse's mouth.

gh: Another case of an insignificant locality being catapulted into worldwide fame because it is a shortwave transmitter site. Atlas-makers are not known for recognizing such places even after they are long-established.

GERMANY EAST (Chester Funnyé, Atlanta GA) Does the German Democratic Republic have a shortwave station? Radio Berlin International is one of the hardest European stations to get. I have great interest in the Germans as a whole (without communism) and would like to listen to RBI.

GERMANY WEST (Chester Funnyé, Atlanta GA) Does Deutsche Welle have anything against North America? For other services, they contain much more about Germany than the 0130, and 0530 transmissions. The twenty-minute format is just like fast food, and the hour long broadcasts to other regions like a hearty meal. On the other hand, listeners who speak German might disagree. The "Deutsches Programm" are great. But even though I am learning the language, I don't know enough of it to totally understand it. Despite all this, DW is one of my favourite stations.

(Tony Jones, Paraguay) All those complaints about R. Moscow's use of multiple channels - Thank God it's not Deutsche Welle! In most cases, it is possible to tune any reasonable signal 5 kHz away from a Moscow frequency, but try doing the same with a DW transmission, or at 10 kHz distance, or at 15 kHz.... During a recent professional monitoring assignment, one of the channels which I was asked to check was 11790 kHz between 0600 and 0800 GMT. What a waste of time! Deutsche Welle, with German to S.E. Asia, on both 11785 and 11795, giving little chance to anything in between. Yet another example of DW's selfish and arrogant attitude to SW broadcasting.

(Ken MacHarg, Jeffersonville IN) Hold it a minute--I recognize that using American announcers on other countries' stations, like DW, maybe isn't good for the purist, but let me rise to the defense of Larry Wayne who is probably one of the best commentators on radio anywhere. Unfortunately, the shorter format of DW's North American service doesn't allow him to do his thing as well. On the old longer version, he did a feature which I think was called GERMANY TODAY. In this, he would blend together a variety of stories, serious and light into one of the most entertaining, listenable features anyone would ever want to hear; well written, smoothly presented, entertaining, informative, listenable. I think he still does the same type of thing on a taped/syndicated magazine program which DW makes available to local broadcasters and is heard in the US on some public radio stations. And while we're at it, what about some of RN's better announcers; they're Canadian, British, American, whathaveyou, and that doesn't seem to affect their professional abilities.

gh: Wayne's program is still available on the 20-minute shows; check the last half Saturday nites.

(Bob Batson, Kansas City KS) Does Radio DW publish a program schedule for its German broadcasts to North America? If so, how can I get on the mailing list? I'm primarily interested in DW's classical music programs.

gh: They certainly do. Have you tried writing to DW and asking for their monthly Deutsches Programm? However, I get mine via a mailing list maintained by the nearest GFR consulate, Atlanta.

GUATEMALA (Don Moore, PA) The beautiful marimba music of this Indian nation can be heard with good signals every morning on La Voz de Guatemala, 6180, after 1100 sign-on. If only the alarm-timer on clock radios could be set to shortwave!!

gh: They can!! Just use a clock radio with a convenience AC outlet and plug your SW radio into it.

HUNGARY (gh) R. Budapest starts in February a fortnightly series of programs on Education, lasting at least thru June 10th, Tues 2100, Weds 0200, 0300, 1030, 1200, 1430. Topics other weeks include Feb. 12-13 Sporting Miracles; Feb 26-27 Hunt the Ancestor. And not to be missed is ON THE HOUSE, Feb. 10-11 at 1030, 2100, 0300, 1030, 1430, on "bear dipping, home gadgets, archeology, TV licence fees". Bear dipping? Is that a veiled insult to the Soviet Union?

INDONESIA (Isao Ugusa, DX Front Line Dec. 2) "Political Power and Communications in Indonesia" is a book edited by Karl D. Jackson and Lucian W. Pye, published by the University of California Press, 1978. Among 13 chapters, No. 8, "The Mass Communications System in Indonesia" is contributed by Astrid Susanto, interesting and worth reading. It mentions system of RRI and non-RRI and types of programs; several tables of most popular programs, listening habits and other data. For example, most popular program from Studio Bogor and Bandung is WAYANG GOLEK; Studio Malang's is WAYANG KULIT; Studio Madiun's is WAYANG KRUCIL; Studio Yogyakarta is KETOPRAK MATARAN RRI-YOGYAKARTA. Also covers TV Republik Indonesia. Almost 400 pages, of which some 15 are on broadcasting. Price is about $20, as US import in Japan costing about ¥5400. Sri, not very cheap!

IRAN (David K. Maxfield, Ann Arbor MI) Like my namesake Greenwood in PA (Nov. RIB, p. 11), I too have heard the 'pulse beat of history' on 9022, and am sickened by it; for our CIA did put the Shah in power. And now we are likely to pay a heavy price for acting so wrongly.

gh: Yes but A.K. is so much wronger... Death to all religious fanatics!! (They wouldn't really mind)

Political Songs Fill the Air

THE WASHINGTON POST
Wednesday, January 2, 1980

Praise of Iran's Revolution, Khomeini Is Set to Music

By Julian Nundy
Reuter

TEHRAN, Jan. 1—If Islamic Iran had a hit parade, the top 10 would almost certainly include references to blood.

Since last February's revolution that toppled the shah and brought Shiite Moslem leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini ot power, dozens of political and religious songs have been composed and now dominate the radio waves.

Often strident and tuneless to the foreign ear, the songs—sold for mass consumption on cassettes—are regular favorites at gatherings and demonstrations in support of the new rulers.

The grim musical messages portray the depth of popular feeling against the shah and relief at his fall.

While most of the songs were composed in the last days of the monarchy or soon after, two favorites date back to a time when the establishment of an Islamic republic was on a dream.

One was written in the 1940s and refers to Iran as "the land of jewels . . . the source of the arts." Many believe it will be Iran's noew national anthem.

The other dates back five years when a communist, Karamatollah Daneshian, was executed after the first trial to be televised in Iran.

Three days after the uprising that sealed the shah's fall, Tehran radio broadcast a song it said was composed by Daneshian in his condemned cell.

"The weather is good, the flowers are blooming, the birds have started to sing. Once again, blood is feeding the plants and a pleasant spring is coming," Daneshian wrote.

References to spring, symbolizing the revolution, are numerous. On the day the shah went into exile last January, marchers sang a song hailing the arrival of "the spring of freedom."

"This is the first time that the screams of our youth have had their effect. . . . After our black night, the dawn of victory has arrived and many springs will follow the autumn," the lyrics ran.

One song, first heard just after the revolution, said: "You, the martyr, are just like a tulip." The word "tulip" has become a synonym for martyr.

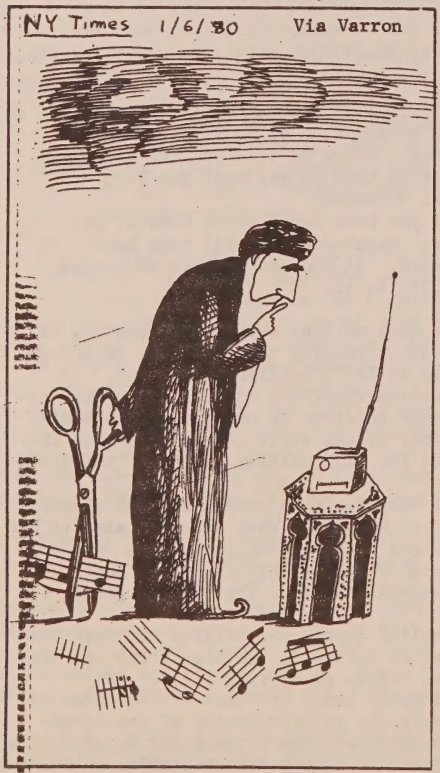
The religious nature and violence of Iran's revolution are also coupled in many new songs.

"God is great. The sound is the sound of angels, the sound of crusaders, the sound of God, the sound of the bullet. Iran resounds to machine-gun bursts," one song, broadcast two days after the revolution, said.

A prerevolutionary song referred to the Pahlavis, the shah's family name, and said of the monarch: "We are full of hate against this enemy of our time."

Just after the revolution, one of the most repeated songs hailed Ayatollah Khomeini himself as an "Iman"—a prophet or the prophet's representative in Shiite vocabulary.

"You, Iman, are a crusader. You are the mark of dignity. You are ready to die for your cause. Your slogan is 're-turn to righteousness'. . .Khomeini is the iman."



"Music is no different from opium."

(Ralf F. Munster, Decatur GA) On Dec. 18 at 2000 on 9022, Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran presented an interview on CIA, Israel, USA, some music, excerpts from an article in a Tehran newspaper dealing with American foreign policy and at 2019 an interview with a hostage whose name, if it was mentioned, I unfortunately did not hear, but who sounded very calm, still hoped to be home by Christmas, and indicated that while he and others in the first days had been severely questioned with accusations of being spies, they had since been reasonably treated and could exercise.

(Mark Zutkoff, Timonium MD) During the 1930-2030 GMT English broadcast of VOIRI on 9022, the interval signal appears to be a martial Iranian tune. This, and other pieces of music heard makes one wonder what happened to Ayatollah Khomeini's prohibition of music as 'sinful'. In addition, women announcers seem prevalent, although I have heard males as well. What happened to 'women should be neither seen nor heard'? Note that I am not arguing about either's appearance on the radio--just bringing to mind another Iranian Inconsistency. Broadcast content is reminiscent of Radio Moscow in the early 70s, "Vietnam Strikes Back"-type-programs, blaming the United States for everything under the sun. Finally, the crisis in Iran has brought international broadcasting to the attention of the national news media; on Dec. 18, CBS ran a lengthy story--with videotaped scenes of the locales--on VOA and BBC broadcasts to Iran, as well as broadcasts emanating from Radio Tehran.

(Peter L. Fort, W. Germany) Tehran's English broadcast has been quite reliable here. The format consists of a 10-15 minute newscast, centring primarily upon local Iranian news, which in the past 6-7 weeks has revealed much about the Iranian/Islamic view of the American hostage impasse. Following the news, an overall review of the headlines from Tehran newspapers, unfortunately differing little from the newscast content. The most interesting portion of the program encompasses the final half hour when special features are presented--interviews with hostages, statements from the students, etc. And not quite the diatribe this listener might expect--often they seem to be going out of their way to be fair and, naturally, gather sympathy from a worldwide audience that has offered little but condemnation thus far.

(via Ruth M. Hesch, NY) The English program schedule of the Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Daily (1930) NEWS (15 min). Sat-Thu (1945) PRESS REVIEW (8 min) and (1953) AN ARTICLE FROM A PAPER (7 min) Sat-Wed (10 min) pgms at (2000): Sat KNOWING ISLAM. Sun GETTING TO KNOW THE OPPRESSED PEOPLES. Mon KNOWING ISLAM. Tue THE GREAT ISLAMIC THINDERS /sic/ AND PHILOSOPHERS. Wed KNOWING ISLAM. Lasting longer than (10 min) at(2000)on Thu is SPECIAL OF THE WEEK; Fri ANSWER TO THE LISTNERS follows IRAN DURING THE PAST WEEK replacing the PRESS REVIEW/PAPER ARTICLE block. And for (10 min) at (2010) Sat-Wed, STEP BY STEP TOWARD REVOLUTION.

The schedule shows only durations, not start times, which add up to only 50 mins.

(Arthur S. Getzel, NY) The recent broadcasts from Iran should be a lesson to all of us how international broadcasting can be used in a very dangerous manner. Look what happened when Khomeini broadcast over the international service that it was the US and Israel who invaded the Holy Mosque at Mecca. This broadcast caused the death of innocent Americans in Pakistan. Khomeini is just using Joseph Goebbel's famous (infamous) theory of "The Big Lie". Basically, if you repeat a lie often enough, the ignorant masses will eventually believe it as true. Unfortunately, Khomeini has proved that it still works!!!

(BBC MS World Broadcasting Information, November 29, 1979)

On 24th November the Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran domestic service broadcast a statement issued by the Supervisor of the Voice and Profile of the Islamic Republic of Iran (Ed Note: Iranian Radio and Television). It stated that, in view of the present sensitive circumstances concerning Iran's relations with the USA and the need to safeguard the country's solidarity and unity, the Voice and Profile of the Islamic Republic of Iran would henceforth be excused from relaying ceremonies and programmes live. This order also applied to provincial stations.

However, on 26th November, another statement was issued stating that some misunderstanding over the original instruction had arisen since some stations, including those in Najafabad and Esfahan, had cut out the Friday Prayer Programme broadcast on 25th November.

The original instruction, ratified by the Revolutionary Council, basically referred to the many live reportages made from Tehran and other cities when "on occasions irresponsible individuals had tried to make use of the opportunity by picking up the microphone and saying things against the interests of Iran and Islam".

The Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran reported on 23rd November that Mahabad radio and television would begin operates again within three days. It was anticipated that it would also broadcast local programmes. (Ed Note: The Mahabad radio and television centre in Kordestan had been captured and put out of action by insurgent forces on 25th August. cf. WBI No. 35 1979).

(Richard Varron, Wayne NJ) Like all Americans, my thoughts over the past month have been turned to the events in Iran. The rape of our embassy in Iran and the desecration of embassies from Bangladesh to Libya has made a mockery of the teachings of the Koran. Allow me to quote two passages:

"If an idolator seeks asylum with you, give him protection so that he may hear the Word of Allah, and then convey him to safety." ("repentance", ch. 9, Koran)

"Believers, do not enter the dwellings of other men until you have asked their owners' permission and wished them peace. That will be best for you. Perchance you will take heed. If you find no one in them, do not go till you are given leave. If you are refused admission, it is but right that you should go away." ("Light", ch. 24, Koran)

I S R A E L (Michael Fine, Jerusalem) I think you'll agree with me that even good reception of Radio Finland is not enough of a reason to remain in Israel after reading the following paragraphs based on some unsolicited information from a former colleague at IBA's English Department.

IBA's Press Liaison Chief after receiving a copy of my remarks regarding Kol Israel in the August edition of RIB solicited advice from the English Department to frame an appropriate response. He indicated I had published 'propaganda against KI'. A member of the staff simply suggested that a statement be issued to the effect that I had been dismissed for disciplinary reasons. The statement was issued under Grajewski's name.

A telephone call to Mr. Moshe (Maurice) Sela (director of West European broadcasts and directly responsible for the English Department) revealed that he had no knowledge that such a statement had been issued and that the individual staff member responsible was overstepping the bounds of morality. He (and all the English Department staff members I was able to contact) had never seen the August RIB, but assured me of my right to publish my opinions as I saw fit. (This would not be the case if I was still an employee of IBA.)

I was able to reach Ephraim Geffen, acting head of the English Department despite the fact that he is on leave serving in the reserves. He also had not seen my letter in the August RIB, nor Grajewski's statement. He agreed that my departure from IBA was solely on my initiative.

I'd like to add that although Grajewski refused to comment on my brief critique of IBA, most of the items have been discussed in the other media. Concern over the politicization of the Broadcasting Authority is a frequent newspaper item. Grajewski's statement was a cheap way to deal with dissent, totally inappropriate to Israel's democratic tradition. I expect this matter to be cleared up quickly. It is not every day that you see yourself slandered in print.

gh: I regret deeply that publication of Michael's comments in RIB has led to this unfortunate misunderstanding.

Kol Israel's 'prime-time' service to North America is 'on' again; target date Jan. 31. See DX news for Jan. 13 for details.

(Larry Magne, IBA, Cheltenham PA) Re Dec RIB, pp 15-16, Louis Goldstein's remarks are, alas, all too valid. The IBA uses the 25640 kHz (1200-1300 GMT) transmitter as a neo-'standby' when one of the 300 kW units breaks down, and thus it's sometimes there, sometimes not. The best solution for North America would be to leave that unit on 25640, of course. On the other hand, for Europe the opposite is true. Similarly there are a number of audio 'glitches'--wrong nets, modulation problems, and whatnot. The IBA receives and reads RIB, so comments such as those made by Mr. Goldstein cannot but help keep the IBA and PTT aware of any such problems. One assumes that in the absence of written complaints that all is going satisfactorily, although in reality often it is more that the listening audience hasn't bothered to complain, and simply ceases to listen. Too, in Israel's case people are sometimes reluctant to complain for fear the complaint may be construed as an unfriendly act. Not so. Israelis are like anybody else--if the wheel doesn't squeak, the grease isn't likely to be applied. Valid complaints are thus helpful.

(Arthur Getzel, NY) What did the MARPLA DX Club mean when they said in regard to Jacobo Timerman working for IBA, "Those poor people, what a 'gem' they have inherited!!!" ? I don't know who belongs to this so-called club in Argentina, but that statement sure does ring of anti-Semitism. They seem to be glad that Argentina is rid of Timerman. Unfortunately, Mr. Timerman can't help being a social democrat who believes in freedom of religion and the press. From what I read in last month's RIB in regard to what this club wants to do to that Costa Rican station, I doubt that this club believes in the freedom of anything except the right to publish anti-Jewish and fascist propaganda in a magazine whose publisher is fair, decent, and a believer in the democratic tradition. It's a shame that the MARPLA DX Club probably wouldn't afford me the same courtesy if I tried to publish this item in their bulletin. What's their address?

gh: A piece by Timerman, "Girding to Fight for Rights Globally" which appeared several weeks ago in the New York Times, testifies to the merits of this gentleman. It should eventually turn up as an available Clipping Copy. MARPLA DX Club's address is C.C. 1378, 7600 Mar del Plata, Argentina.

(Edwin Southwell, WDXC Contact) Israel POP SOUND, as the title suggests, is a programme of pop music; I would like to see a change so other types of Israeli music could also be heard--like jazz and traditional. This could alternate weekly with the pop music. Another criticism I have is on the FORUM discussion programme, which I think is rather pointless, because of the time allotted to this feature, about 10 minutes. Just as you are taking an interest in what's being discussed, it's cut off for ULPAN OF THE AIR, the language lesson. This should be dropped, allowing more time for the discussion programme.

J A P A N (Todd Thompson, Chula Vista CA) The Japanese rang in the new year at 1500 GMT on Dec. 31, and Radio Japan celebrated the event with live coverage of a Japanese new year celebration. The commentary was in Japanese so I couldn't really tell what was going on, but it sounded quite interesting nonetheless. At about 1450 I began to hear a series of gongs, of varying pitches, being struck at irregular intervals. As it approached midnight, some bizarre sounding horns began to be played (sounded like elephants chanting into the night). Then at midnight there was a very loud and prolonged 'gong' which rang in the new year. Anybody know where this took place and what it was all about? After the festivities, Radio Japan presented a new year's message from the Director of the Overseas Broadcasting Department of NHK, saying that 1980 marked the 45th year of OB from Japan and that R. Japan would continue to work to improve its programming and reception quality. He noted how the use of relay transmitters at Sines had greatly improved reception in Europe and added "We hope this is just the beginning".

J O R D A N (Maxfield Greenwood, PA) Yes, R. Jordan can be heard in English on 9560. Picked it up at 1530 with a continuous music show, a strange mix of music at that--a hodge-podge of C&W, jazz, rock & roll, romantic ballads and incredibly, a song by Gary Numan of "Tubeway Army", a Brian Eno-influenced New Waver--amazing! At 1600 there was 6-pips and verbal ID, and 5 minutes of news, exclusively news occurring in Middle East and Asia Minor. At 1605, the same musical format resumed, but this time with a woman DJ. At about 1620 the signal degenerated into uselessness, with some unidentified station moving in. Can't recommend anything about programming; this is just info for DXers. Signal was a steady 222. (Report mailed Dec. 21 --gh; a maximum-darkness phenomenon)

K O R E A N O R T H (Maxfield Greenwood, PA) If R. Pyongyang isn't the pits, then I don't know what is. I caught a show that defined happiness. It seems that to them, happiness is living in a mining village. Kid you not: "and now we are to read a reporter's report entitled 'Happiness is

DX PROGRAMS IN ENGLISH

NOTE: (C) Glenn Hauser 1980. This attempts to be a complete worldwide listing. Best frequencies in North America are underlined. Insofar as possible, information is current as of January 1980; recently unconfirmed listings are given a U. In most cases times vary; tune in early to be safe. When the exact time is unknown, the entire transmission span is shown thus: 0000/0100. Roman numerals distinguish between more than one different program per week. All times and days are GMT. Hindu numerals in parentheses refer to week of month; if *, these weeks are dependent on the previous GMT day. Thanks to the many contributors to RIB, NASWA LN, RCI DX Report, certain DX publications and the BBC Monitoring Service. The compiler welcomes additions and corrections. $ = time changes seasonally due to local DST. # = frequent changes in frequency.

SATURDAY

0030-0050 Veritas 15135 15285 17790 # /6095
0200/0225 Warsaw 15120 11815 9525 7270 7145 6135
0215-0220 Bucharest 11940 11840 9690 9570 9510 6180 5990 (III)
0240-0255 Australia 21740 21680 17890 17870 17795 17725 15355 15310 15240 15160
0300/0325 Warsaw same as 0200
0315-0325 Portugal 6025 11925 3-weekly (Feb. 2)
0400-0415 Budapest 17710 15220 11910 9835 9585 (II) 6105
0437-0447 Sofia 9530 #
0515-0525 Portugal 6025 11925 3-weekly (Feb. 2)
0655-0705 Bucharest 17805 15340/15335 15255 11940 (II)
0707-0727 SRI (2,4) 21695 21520 15305 9560 9535 6165 3985
0750-0800 DW (2) 21560 17845 11795 11785 11705 9735 9690 7285 9545 6075
0800-0830 HCJB (III) 11825 9760 #
0811-0830 RMWS 21715 21645 21600 21555 21545 21530 21450 SSB-19725 17880 17855 17825 17815 17810 17800 17730 17710 SSB-16250 15540 15500 15480 15460 15385 15360 15350 15305 15265 15185 15130 12055 12010 11980 11970 11810 9640 9610 9450 7215 7105 927
0840-0855 Australia 21680 21570 17725 11740 9670 9570 6045
0845-0900 TWR Monaco (3) 9495 $
0900-0930 HCJB (III) 11900 9745 6130
0907-0927 SRI (2,4) 21695 21520 15305 9560
0930/1030 DW (3) 21680 21540 17800 17780 15275 11850 9650
1107-1127 SRI (2,4) 21630 21520 17795 15430
1150-1200 DW (2) 21560 17845 15105 11795 9545 6075
1210-1230 Turkey (III) 17775 U #
1300-1400 New Zealand 1593 $
1322-1342 SRI (2,4) 21570 21520 17815 17735 11945 9535 6165 3985
1400/1430 Tashkent (after 2nd Sun) U 11785 9600 9540 6025
1440-1455 Australia 21660 17795 11705 9770 6080 6060 6045 5995
1500-1515 TWR Monaco (3) 7230 # 3985
1537-1557 SRI (2,4) 21570 17830 15125 9535 6165/
1550-1600 DW (2) 21560 17875 15275 11795 11765 9545 6075 1557
1720/1750 DW (3) 21620 17825 15405 11785 9590
1800-1830 WUOT (Tennessee) 91900-FM $
1822-1842 SRI (2,4) 21585 17830 17760 15125 9535 6165 3985 /6160 6075
1950-2000 DW (2) 15275 11795 11765 9735 9640 7175
2045-2105 Turkey (III) 11955 9550 /7200 6110
2115-2125 Budapest (III) 15160 11910 9835 9585
2130-2200 HCJB (III) 26020 21480 17885 15295 #
2135-2145 RSA 21535 17780 15155
2215-2235 Turkey (III) 11955 9550 9515 7215
2320/2340 Moscow 17720 SSB-16190 15455 15180 15140 12050 11780 9765 9685 9635 9610 9580 9530 9490 9470 SSB-7925 7440 7300 7165 7125 6175 4860
2345-2400 FEBC 21515 17810 11890 /3995
2350-2400 DW (2) 15410 11795 11765 9735 9700 6075

SUNDAY

0120/0140 Moscow SSB-16190 15455 15230 15180 15140 12050 11780 SSB-10120 9765 9685 9610 9530 9490 7440 7165 6175 6115 4860; perhaps 9700 9580
0152-0212 SRI (2*4) 15305 11715 9725 6135
0200-0230 KUWR (Wyoming & Colorado) FM-91900 $
0215-0225 Budapest (III) 17710 15220 11910 9835 9585 6105
0230-0300 HCJB (III) 15115 11910 9745
0235-0245 RSA 17770 15220 15155 11900
0320/0340 Moscow SSB-16190 15455 15180 15140 12050 9765 9700 9685 9610 9605 9530 9490 7440 7165 6175 6115 4860
0350-0400 DW (*2) 9735 9605 6145 6100 6085 3995
0420/0440 Moscow SSB-16190 15180 15140 12050 9735 9635 9580 9505 7175 7125
0437-0457 SRI (2*4) 11715 9725
0620/0640 Moscow SSB-16190 15265 12050 9795 9735 9635 9580 9505 7175 7125
0630/0700 Warsaw 9675 7270 6135
0745-0759 BBC 21710 21660 17885 17790 15400 15070 11955 11760 9640 9510 7150 5975 1323 648 90200-FM (Berlin)
0820-0830 Japan 21610 17710
0900-0915 Austria 21585 9770 7170 6155
0915-0930 New Zealand (1) $ 6105 11945
0935-0945 AWR Portugal 9670 #
1010-1020 Japan 15235 11875
1020-1030 Japan 15195 9585 9505
1045-1100 European Music Radio (3) $ 7325 6235
1100-1130 Sri Lanka 17850 15120 11835
1135-1145 Japan 11875 9675
1200/1230 Warsaw 7285 6095
1211-1230 RMWS 21715 21645 21615 21555 21530 21465 21450 17855 17810 17780 17730 SSB-15780 15540 15525 15490 15420 15305 15220 15150 15135 12010 11980 11900 11705 9780 9600 9450 927
1215-1225 Tashkent (2) U 11785 9600 9540 6025
1400-1430 Sri Lanka 15425 9720 6075
1420-1430 Japan 11815 9585 9505

1600/1630 Warsaw 9540 6135
1735-1750 Belgium (2,4) $ # 17730 6010
1805-1820 Austria 21740 15560 15225 6155
1807-1821 RCI (I & II) 17820 15260
1830/1900 Warsaw 7285 6095
1850-1900 Japan 11955 9605
1917-1925 RCI (I) 17760 15325 11905 5995 /5980
2015-2025 Moscow (II) 15535 9600 7390 7340 6010
2017-2025 RCI (II) 17820 17760 15325 11905 5995
2025-2030 Israel 17685 11960 11655 9815 9425 9009 7412½ (sometimes Monday)
2035-2045 Japan 11950 9605
2045-2100 Spain 11840 9685
2100-2114 BBC 17840 15260 12095 11750 9410 7120 5975 6180 6005 3989 1413 1323 702 639
2137-2147 Sofia 9665 9530 #
2145-2200 Spain 11840 9685 7105
2230/2300 Warsaw 7270 7125 6135 5995 1503
2245-2300 Belgium (2,4) 15175 11700
2255-2300 Israel 17685 15300 11960 11655 11637½ 9815 7412½ (sometimes Monday)
2305-2320 Austria 12015 9770 5945
2320-2330 Japan 17755 15195 9585

MONDAY

Note: Israel may be at 0025, 0125, 0225 from 31/1
0025-0035 Japan 17825 15270
0040-0055 Belgium (2*4) 15175 11700
0050-0105 Spain 11880 9630
0117-0125 RCI (III) 11940 11830 5960
0145-0200 Spain 11880 9630
0210-0220 Japan 21640 17825 17725 15235
0217-0225 RCI (IV) 11940 11845 5960
0317-0325 RCI (I) 11940 11845 11770 9535 5960
0417-0425 RCI (II) 11845 11770 5960
0437-0447 Sofia 9530 #
0515-0525 RBI (alternate weeks) 11960 9500
0600-0615 Spain 11880 9630 6065
0715-0725 RBI (alt) 21465 17700 15100
0800-0830 HCJB (I) 11825 9760 #
0900-0930 HCJB (I) 11900 9745 6130
1115-1129 BBC 25650 21710 21660 21550 21470 17885 17790 17770 17705 17695 15420 15400 15310 15215 15070 12095 11775 11760 11750 9760 9750 9740 9510 9410 7140 6195 5975 1323 648 639 90200-FM (Berlin) 88900-FM (Sing)
1210-1230 Turkey (I) U 17775 #
1220-1230 Bucharest (I) 17890 15345
1230-1240 RBI (alt) 21540 21465 17880 15115
1330/1345 RSA 25790 21535 15220
1345-1355 RBI (alt) 17755
1430-1440 RBI (alt) 21540 21465 17880
1430-1450 Veritas 15215 11955 9605
1445-1455 RBI (alt) 15285 15240 11700 9730
1505/1530 CBCNS $ 11720 9625 (irregular)
1520-1530 Bucharest (I) 17765 15335 11775
1600-1610 RBI (alt) 21465 17880
1645-1655 RBI (alt) 9730 7185
1815-1825 RBI (alt) 7185 6115 6080
1830-1840 RBI (alt) 21500 15170 15145
1945-1955 RBI (alt) 7185 6115 6080 1359
2015-2020 Bucharest (I) 9690 7195
2030-2040 RBI (alt) 15390 15140
2045-2105 Turkey (I) U 11955 9550
2100-2110 RBI (alt) 7260
2130-2200 HCJB (I) 26020 21480 17885 15295 #
2200-2210 RBI (alt) 6115 6080 1359
2215-2235 Turkey (I) U 11955 9550 9515 7215

TUESDAY

0130-0140 RBI (alt) 11975 9730
0215-0220 Bucharest (I) 11940 11840 9690 9570 9510 6180 5990
0230-0300 HCJB (I) 15115 11910 9745
0300-0310 RBI (alt) 11975 9730
0345-0400 FEBC 21515 17810 15305
0400-0410 RBI (alt) 11975 11890 5955
1115-1127 Sweden 21690 9630 89650-FM (Stockholm)
1245-1257 Sweden 21690 15240 89650-FM
1415-1427 Sweden 21700 21615 89650-FM /6110
1515-1530 Budapest (I) 15160 11910 9835 9585 7200
1611-1630 RMWS 21640 15535 15470 15420 12090 12060 12050 12020 12010 11980 11870 11860 11820 11630 SSB=9908 9795 9640 7390 7290 7175 6045 6030 6020 5920 4825 927
1615-1627 Sweden 15435 6065 1179 89650-FM #
1750-1800 Bucharest (I) 17720 15365
1845-1857 Sweden 15240 6065 1179 89650-FM
1900-1915 DLF 1269
2115-2127 Sweden 11955 11845 1179 89650-FM #
2315-2327 Sweden 15275 11705 1179 89650-FM

WEDNESDAY

0045-0057 Sweden 11905
0245-0257 Sweden 11705 9695 89650-FM
0400-0415 Budapest (I) see Saturday
0550-0600 Bucharest (I) 17745 15365 11840
1630/1657 Prague U 7345 5930
1900/1927 Prague U 7345 7245 5930
2000/2027 Prague U 7345 5930
2015-2020 Bucharest (II) 9690 7195
2015-2025 Kiev 9640 7260 6020
2130-2157 Prague U 6015 1287
2140-2157 RCI (III & IV) 17820 15325 15150 11945
2211-2230 RMWS 17730 SSB-16190 15535 15455 15180 15140 12075 12050 11690 11630 9810 9795 9765 9635 9625 9600 9575 9565 9530 9470 SSB-7925 7440 7390 7380 7300 7175 7165 7125 6130 5920 5905 4860 1548 1494 1386 1323 1143 936
2215-2225 Kiev 1242
2315-2329 BBC 15435 15260 11955 11750 9590 9580 9570 9510 9410 7325 7185 7130 6195 6175 6120 5975 3955 648 88900-FM (Singapore)

THURSDAY

0045-0055 Kiev 17870 17845 15240 15180 15100 12060 11735 9800 7215 7150 #
0215-0220 Bucharest (II) see Tuesday
0230-0300 HCJB (II) 15115 11910 9745
0315-0325 Kiev 17870 17760 15265 15230 11960 11690 SSB-10120 9735 9610 9505 7400 7215 7205 7150 #
0749-0819 Nederland 9770 9715
0800-0830 HCJB (II) 11825 9760 #
0849-0919 Nederland 9715
0900-0930 HCJB (II) 11900 9745 6130 /5955
0949-1019 Nederland 17605 11930 9895 7240 6045
1210-1230 Turkey (II) U # 17775

1300/1330 Bucharest (II) 17850 15250 11940
1349-1419 Nederland 17605 11930 9895 6045 5955
1445-1500 FEBC 15440
1449-1519 Nederland 21480 17855
1849-1919 Nederland 17605 11730 6020
2035-2055 Moscow (II) 15535 9600 7390 7340 6010
2045-2105 Turkey (II) U 11880 9550
2049-2119 Nederland 21640 17695 17605 15220 11730
2130-2200 HCJB (II) 26020 21480 17885 15295 #
2215-2235 Turkey (II) U 11955 9550 9515 7215

F R I D A Y

0135/0155 Prague 11990 9740 9540 7345 5930
0249-0319 Nederland 9590 6165
0335/0355 Prague 11990 9740 9540 7345 5930
0549-0619 Nederland 9715 6165
0845-0900 FEBC 11765
1415-1425 Portugal 17880 (three-weekly; Feb. 1)
1515-1530 Budapest (II) 15160 11910 9835 9585 7200
1615-1625 Portugal (3-weekly) 17880 6110
1811-1830 RMWS SSB-15720 15535 15470 12090 12060 11860 12050 12020 12010 11870 11800 11630 SSB= 9908 9795 9600 7440 7390 7340 7300 7290 7175 6130 6030 6020 6010 5920 5900 927
1815-1825 Portugal (3-weekly) 17880 15340
1830-1900 WCWP (NY City area) 88100-FM $
2015-2020 Bucharest (III) 9690 7195
2040-2055 Australia 15355 15240 15160 11855 11820 7240 6035 11790 11725 9625 9580 9560
2045-2055 Portugal (3-weekly) 9740 6025
2100-2115 ABC-Melbourne $ 11880 6150
2137-2147 Sofia 9665 9530 #

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living in a mining village'." Now they emphasize that happiness was not always to work in a mining village; when the (imperialist running dogs) Japanese ruled, workers in the mining village were quite sad; they got no respect and they had no ping pong tables. But Praise be to Kim Il Sung, Benevolent Leader, Bravest of the Brave; the Wizard of Oz--praise be, because he said to mining workers, I respect you and even more, I give you ping-pong tables. Wonder or wonders, digging coal all day is whistle-as-we-work joy for once sad miners. And they give all their love and devotion, and life, to Kim Il Sung, and intend to live happily ever after.

Now I tell you, if this isn't the pits, then what?? Radio Tirana, can you top this??!

K U W A I T (Maxfield Greenwood, PA) Got a good one here. 11665, R. Kuwait in English, tuned in at 2010; soft-spoken DJ playing progressive rock--Fleetwood Mac, Sad Cafe and such. Signal is a well modulated fair (SIO 433). Show is called '--- SOUNDS UNLIMITED' and runs to 2030, when, and you should like this--a show called JAZZ TIME begins; YL gives history of recordings and jazz masters, etc. YL says Duke wrote "Solitude" in 20 minutes, and tidbits like that. Tho heard on a Wednesday the YL said it was 11:30 Thursday night in Kuwait. English runs to 2100 sign off daily, for Europe.

(Scott McClellan, Battle Creek MI) Programs are mostly rock and pop music, with shows like SPORTS ROUNDUP and OUR PRESS TODAY thrown in. Also announced English to SE Asia at 0500 GMT on 21545.

L A T I N A M E R I C A (Don Moore, Bellefonte PA) Brought in the New Year at 0400 GMT with Ecos del Torbes, Venezuela, 0500 with Radio Super de Medellín, Colombia, and at 0600 with Radio Reloj, Costa Rica. The Venezuelan jumped the gun declaring "cero y feliz año nuevo" a bit over a minute too soon (per WWV). The Colombian was over a minute late. Radio Reloj was right within two seconds. All three stations brought in the new year with a countdown, followed by a long siren and then their respective national anthems. Must be a custom.

N E T H E R L A N D S (Michael C. Tripka, Highland Hts OH) Radio Nederland continues (before Dec. 31) to overpromote the ISWC popularity poll. A quality broadcaster like RN does not need to stoop to these methods; it should allow merit to be seen on its own.

(Chester Funnyé, Atlanta GA) I think a DX programme has no space or time for music. About ten minutes each week is wasted on music. Why? Other programmes on RN have music; why the DX JUKEBOX? R. Nederland will hopefully do something about 6165 kHz, which is interference-ridden by the BBC on 6175.

gh: Everyone knows that a program must reflect its title. It is inconceivable that a program called DX JUKEBOX would not have jukebox-style music in it! As for 6165/6175, you must have an inadequate receiver if these two interfere. Both have long been their stations' prime frequencies to North America for years, and they are considered to be quite successful.

(Rufus Jordan, Pittsburgh PA) Well, the results are in from the RN questionnaire which appeared in the July 1979 RIB, reported by Frits Greveling in a late-December DXJB. There were 12 questions, which ranged from the purely self-serving to, at best, the innocuous. However, the one area of controversy to be found was Question 10, viz: "DX JUKE BOX lasts 30 minutes. What do you think of its present balance?" (the choices: less music and more info; present balance is about right; more music and less information). These were hardly equally-weighted choices, but so be it. Without getting into all of those naughty questions that one might raise, such as the size of sample, the number of respondents, etc., the results reported for Question 10 were dismaying at best. Mr. Greveling indicated that there was a 50-50 split between those who favored the present format and those who desired less music. He's got to be kidding! This is one issue that this RIB reader and

DX JUKEBOX listener would like to have had more statistical information on from the survey. Many contributors to RIB have voiced their complaints over the music 'filler' on DX JUKEBOX, as did I in the May 1979 issue, which in turn was read on a subsequent airing of Frits' program. Mr. Greveling then concluded that the results of Question 10 refute Glenn Hauser's informal poll taken at an ANARC Convention seminar in Minneapolis wherein only four out of 150 persons present 'liked having music on DX JUKEBOX'. Frits then added that perhaps the listeners in North America are different! Zap and double zap!! Maybe we are. Vive la différence!

gh: Nevertheless, in 1980 the DX reports are expanded from 6 to 8 minutes a week, and there seems to be less music; some selections cut off before they're over. Get out your July 1979 RIB, and you can fill in some of the results as Frits gave them on the air. Question 1, "YES" percentages: a) 89, b) 77, c) 68, d) 43. Question 2, MW-occasionally 49; SW-always 93; tropical-regularly 43; FM-no 55. Question 3, Normal speed 66. Question 4, on technical topics interest: antennas 71, receivers 80, new developments 70, radio communications 45, general electronics 13, propagation 58. Question 5, music preferred: 50% said none at all--info only; of the other 50% who wanted some music, jazz 14, pop 32. Question 6, why do you listen? Most said just for DX purposes. Very few said because I collect QSLs; other reasons included: keeping up with technology, keeping hobby up to date. Questions 7, 9, 10, 11, 12 I did not hear mentioned. Question 8, how long a listener to DXJB, 5 years or longer, 45%.

NETHERLANDS ANTILLES (Ralf F. Munster, Decatur GA) I know no more than anybody else of any programs in'Special Spanish' as such but one from R. Transmundial on 15440, Dec. 26 at 0215 that I received with SIO 555 was so distinct and presented so slowly that it might as well have been. Of course you might have to hear a great deal not merely about 'la gloria de dios' but also about 'el diablo'. Later announcements for Christmas carols were, however, at regular speed. Still, might be worth an occasional try until 0300 sign-off.

NICARAGUA (BBC MS World Broadcasting Information, Nov. 22) The newspaper 'Barricada' reported Oct. 20 that the following radio stations were operating in Nicaragua: Amor, Atenas, Bonita, Campesina, Canal 130, Católica, Corporación, Cultura, Darío, Eco, El Fabuloso, Futura, Güegüense, Hernández de Córdoba, Liberación, Libertad, Mil, Minuto, Mi Preferida, Mundial, Nacional del Aire, Noticias, Ondas Sonoras, Patria, Patria (in Boaco), Reloj, San Cristóbal, Sandino, Satélite, Sonido Popular, Tiempo, Triunfo, La Voz de los Lagos, La Voz de Nicaragua, and Zínica. No freqs given.

NIGERIA (gh) Following its usual practice, FRCN mailed us several copies of its bulky Programme Schedule, covering all languages, for the "Fourh Quarter" almost on the exact day it expired. By the time the First Quarter is over we may have the next edition telling us what we have not heard. Compared to Third Quarter sked (Sept RIB, p. 18, and reflected in Nov. "SWL"), there were very few changes in the 0455-0600 period, which is about all we can hope to hear in North America. But the typography is so confusing, that just trying to read the sked is about as irritating as trying to separate VON from the ham QRM on 7255. Anyhow, the theme of the articles and the cover was that the military would bid "Farewell" Oct. 1 and turn the country over to a democratically elected government. There's a real pretty color map of Nigeria & its states, as in previous quarters, on the back cover; and within lots of photographs of station staffers. A couple of minor nagging questions remain: 1) How can VON be persuaded to publish its program schedule before it expires, and 2) How can VON be persuaded to make itself listenable in North America? Via Gabon?

PHILIPPINES (John Fisher, Chelmsford MA) Concerning Arthur Getzel's comment in RIB 34, regarding R. Veritas' DX program, I find myself in general agreement. While this program does have its negative aspects, I find that it is better than the so-called DX programs à la Sofia, Kiev, etc. Even though this program appears geared for the beginner, Arthur is right, the program can be improved. Marisu Chao, the announcer, invites suggestions and comments about the program; DX tips are welcome. Perhaps we RIBbers, especially those in RVA's target areas, can help by sending in our views, tips, ideas about the program. It's worth the try.

SAUDI ARABIA (Joe Tangredi, Las Vegas NV) Lately I've been hearing BSKSA almost daily in English on 11854, sometimes with very strong signals. Contrary to your DX news report on Dec. 9 that they had shifted this broadcast back one hour, I am still hearing them /dated Jan. 1/ at 1900-2200. I tried monitoring them for a week to compile some sort of schedule, but now I've decided to wait until I receive one from them in the mail, provided, that is, that they do publish some sort of regular schedule in English.

Anyway, their programs do follow a certain pattern each day. First, 15 minutes of music (usually a mixture of MoR, pop, disco and soul). At about 1915, local and regional news usually including here or at some point in the broadcast a weather report with temperatures for various cities like

Riyadh, Jeddah and Mecca. Then around 1927, they have a program called SA'UDI ARABIA: A DAILY CHRONICLE, focusing mainly on economic and industrial development, and commerce and cooperation with other countries. After this, I sometimes hear THE EVENING SHOW, which contains mainly western pop music and talk.

On Friday, the Moslem sabbath, the programs take on a more sedate tone. Instead of playing US and British pop music, they have programs like THE GREAT INTERPRETERS, which recently featured snatches of Verdi and Puccini operas as sung by Maria Callas; and CONCERT CHOICE, on which I recently heard a short biography of Mozart and some of his music. This might be the station for you, Glenn; though I've never really been a great fan of classical music. There are also several programs about the Islamic faith on Fridays, including THE LIFE OF THE PROPHET, and another which is 'designed to inform listeners of other religions about Islam,', i.e. soft-sell evangelism.

One thing which has always intrigued me about stations in the Arab world: they seem to have a strong penchant for playing Western music on their external services, often to the exclusion of their own music. Witness Radio Lebanon, Radio Kuwait, Radio Algiers, etc. One notable exception is Radio Cairo, which I've never heard play Western music. Actually, I have nothing against these stations playing Western music--as long as it is done in moderation, and provided that they give us a taste of their own music from time to time.

S O U T H A F R I C A (Scott McClellan, Battle Creek MI) To me, Radio RSA's New Years Eve phone-in show was a big disappointment. They made a big mistake when they decided to mix all the languages up. They should have had 45 minutes of English calls, then half an hour of French, and so on. I just didn't feel like listening through 4 or 5 calls in different languages, just to then hear one I could understand. Another thing I didn't like was the very short amount of time allowed for each call, and then playing the boring filler music. They must have had a shortage of calls, because some of the music breaks were rather long. I only listened to the first hour, but turned my DX-160 on once in a while to see what was going on. Almost every time I did turn it on, either music was playing, or they were giving the phone numbers. If you thought last year's calls were exceedingly plain and boring, you must have fallen to sleep during this one. What a disappointment! Growl. Grrr. etc.

(Robert Wagner Jr., Muskogee OK) As most SWLs know, R. RSA again had the phone-in show on New Years Eve. This was the third time, I think, but last year was the first time I listened (that's Dec. 78). This year they had all of their language services in it, which is great, except for the fact that not too many people can understand all those languages. It was very boring to me sitting by the set waiting for someone to call in for their English service. I think it would have been quite a bit more enjoyable if they had had different frequencies for different languages. I listened to the entire show at the end of 1978, but because of boredom I only listened to it for about an hour and a half, on and off, this year. The next day I sent them a letter strongly expressing my feelings!

(Kenneth Clark, Knoxville TN, GO-DX) Radio RSA is one station I have mixed views on. One view is Radio RSA is a biased propaganda mouthpiece of the ruling National Party which hardly ever devotes any time to its racial problem because it knows they are wrong in oppressing the black population. My other view is Radio RSA is an interesting station to listen to because they present features like TOURING RSA and SOUTH AFRICAN PANORAMA, the type of program I like to listen to. Their news coverage on Africa usually points out negative aspects in the continent without looking at their own'house'. But yet, I find myself listening to RSA every so often.

S W E D E N (AP, Stockholm, via Nov-Dec MARPLA DX Club "DX-Citing", translated from Spanish by gh) Many Children Occupy Swedish Radios. The kids took control of three Radio Sweden stations, filling the air with rock music and programs on the problems of youth. To celebrate International Year of the Child, the directors of Swedish radio permitted 700 students to take control of programs, except for news--and one local station even authorized that. "We believe that this would be an interesting experiment: to see what it's like to work with young people and see what they want to do", said Britt-Marie Nystedt, director of Swedish radio.

gh= I've forgotten the date, by I was a bit taken aback when the SATURDAY SHOW was done by kids !

(George Wood, Radio Sweden, Dec. 12) I thought you'd want to know that the extension of SWEDEN CALLING DXERS to 12 minutes was a direct result of your article in Popular Electronics encouraging people to listen to the other language versions of the program. I went to the English group, told them about the article, and asked why my program couldn't be as long as the French and German versions. So they approved the extension. What I don't understand is this thing about having so much club news in the program. It's been my impression that if anything I have had considerably less club news than Arne had (which I think has saddened some people). Not to mention cutting a lot of "Identified", "Unidentified", "Publications," and so on, in favor of more straight DX news. Anyway

there's probably even less club info now than before, and what there is comes last in priority for getting into the radio version of SCDX. I am almost cutting myself off from the world of radio for the next two months, with the exception of meeting the UADX and Victor /Goonetilleke/ in Colombo /Sri Lanka/ and probably visiting the SLBC as well.

(Chester Funnye, Atlanta GA) What in the world happened to R. Sweden? After the Nov. 4 frequency change, they disappeared. They should have kept 15275 kHz. It is a shame because they have one of the best DX and mailbag programmes on the bands.

gh: Same thing that happens every winter. In a year's time there is a huge amount of variation in the amount of light/darkness on the path at 2300 GMT between Sweden and North America--almost all light in the summer to almost all dark in the winter. So they think they have to make great seasonal frequency changes; trouble is, at solar cycle 21 peak now, 15 MHz would probably have held up all winter, and belatedly realizing this and with nothing to lose compared to the heavy QRM on 9695 and 11705, R. Sweden in late December did resume 15275 ex-9695. However, they have a consistently good signal all year long at 1400 on 21615; you should listen then.

S W I T Z E R L A N D (W. Fankhauser, Press Officer, Swiss Radio International, Dec. 7) With reference to November RIB, we think a few corrective words are in order as concerns Radio-24. Unfortunately, Mike Tripka was not completely accurate in his account of SRI's news item of Nov. 6, 1315 GMT. The exact wording was "The Swiss Federal Post Office says it will jam broadcasts (of Radio-24) if the Swiss government allows them to go ahead." This is quite different from "if and when it went on the air," as was indicated by Mr. Tripka. At the heart of the matter lies an agreement between Italy and Switzerland on mutual protection against radio interference and not (as you implied in your own comment) against the right of free speech. It is up to the Swiss and Italian government (and not to the Swiss Post Office) to decide whether or not the operation of Radio-24 on Italian territory, but beamed to Zurich, Switzerland, constitutes a breach of the agreement. Italy's policy of free FM broadcasting allows for local stations, and not for the use of Italian territory as a base for high-power long-distance broadcasting. The Swiss government has chosen to pursue this case through legal channels. The Swiss Broadcasting Corporation (of which SRI is a part) has taken a neutral stand vis-à-vis Radio-24, and would in no way be responsible for any eventual jamming of Radio-24. As we write you, Radio-24 is in full operation and the Swiss Federal Government is still considering the matter. We hope this puts the record straight.

(Play-DX, Dec. 17) Now some news about Radio 24, the most powered free station from Italy, broadcasting from Pizzo Groppera with 40000 watts directed to German Switzerland and Zurich area. Frequency is 101.6 MHz, address: Radio 24, Casella Postale Aperta, CH-8031 Zurigo, Switzerland. Program only in German language. Clipping at right via M. Kelly, and logo above also from Play-DX.

(Chester Funnye, Atlanta GA) I must say that DATELINE on SRI is a very boring format. It isn't worth waiting a week for features. What I suggest they do is cut it to three nights and air features on weekdays. A newsreel is nice, but every day is too much. I also think music would not fit in with the Swiss Shortwave MERRYGOROUND. If there weren't so much talking and reporting, more letters could be answered on that program and on TALKBACK.

gh: Here is SRI's Sunday lineup thru April: First Sunday of month, FESTIVAL; second, ACTIVE NEUTRALITY; third SUPPLEMENT; fourth, JAZZ PANORAMA; fifth (if any) REPEAT PERFORMANCE.

La radio di Schawinski si trova in difficoltà

ZURIGO, 26 — Da pochi giorni in funzione a pieno regime, «Radio 24», del giornalista Roger Schawinski, appare in difficoltà. Schawinski ha infatti reso noto che in seguito alle pressioni svizzere, le autorità italiane hanno imposto a «Radio 24» di sospendere le trasmissioni destinate alla Svizzera entro la fine di questa settimana.

Quale contromisura alle pressioni delle autorità, Schawinski si propone di intensificare le emissioni della sua radio verso l'Italia. Sul pizzo Groppera è in costruzione una seconda antenna. Secondo Schawinski, in Italia v'è interesse per «Radio 24», come attestano numerose lettere che gli sono pervenute da ascoltatori italiani. Nel caso in cui «Radio 24» fosse costretta a tacere, Schawinski prevede un'ondata di proteste per il passo di Roma e per la «ingerenza svizzera in affari interni italiani». (Ats)

gh: The Red Cross Broadcasting Service is an easy station never to hear, since it's only active for a few hours a month, via SRI facilities, during the last week of the month. Non-directional broadcasts on 7210 kHz, 150 kW, are monthly; directional ones on various frequencies at 0945-1015 are on in odd-numbered months only. So this is when to listen in January: 28th & 30th at 0600-0700, 1130-1230, 1700-1800, on 7210. 29th at 0945-1015 on 9560 15305 21520 21695. 31st at 0945-1015 on 15430 17830 21520 21630. Some of these are in English. The Feb. non-dirs are on 25 & 27.

T H A I L A N D (BBC MS World Broadcasting Information, Dec. 6) On 25th November the English-language newspaper 'Post' quoted the commander of the First Army Division as saying that his Division is to 'revamp' the programmes of its five radio stations and put more emphasis on 'constructive and informative programmes that will serve the interest of the public and the nation'. In December, he added, all programmes carried at 0700-0900 by the two VHF/FM stations on 90 and 98 MHz, and the three AM stations on 1548, 1359 and 1008 kHz will be discontinued 'to save electricity'. Furthermore, officials of the Division will operate their own programmes five and a half hours per day instead of leasing broadcasting time to the private sector.

U G A N D A (Rich Lucas, Stockton CA) I came across a station on 15325 one night with Western/African music. I listened for 40 minutes, until a song ended about 0405, and with no sign-off, they were gone, carrier on about two minutes longer. During those 40 minutes, there was no language of any sort, only music. Only later did I realize it was R. Uganda, confirmed the next night. Audio was good though. Vastly better than during Amin's time.

gh: Another night I heard garbage allover and beyond the 19m band, which I could trace to Uganda 15325 which itself sounded all right.

(Bill Fait, Euclid OH) Listening to Radio Uganda has been quite enjoyable lately. There is interesting music from East Africa to be heard and occasional features about life and culture in that corner of the world. The audio quality is about as good as VOA from Bethany. I think I know why they sign on and off so irregularly. At WELW 1330, where I work, we have a problem with power outages. We sign on late when the morning DJ doesn't check the time and reset the clocks, before sign on. If there are frequent power outages in Uganda, they may not have correct time.

gh: Indeed, I heard them once giving time checks 10 minutes off--fast, I think. There is no excuse for this, with radio time signals readily available.

U K O G B A N I (Tony Jones, Paraguay) Reading thru some of the comments in Sept RIB, I cannot help but agree with Ken HacHarg on his comments of VOA News--their coverage really is comprehensive. The BBC coverage, for all its good points, is pitiably weak on Latin America, even allowing for the fact that they have only one correspondent in that part of the world (in Buenos Aires). His reports are often only a re-hash of Agency reports. The exception to the rule was Bob Jobbins, who was LA correspondent a few years back and who really had his finger on the pulse of LA politics. Unfortunately, he was sent elsewhere (Cairo, if I remember correctly) and his successor, Derek Wilson, was an unmitigated disaster. Thankfully, the latter now seems to have disappeared from the air waves. (Later: Aaaghhh!!! Derek Wilson has just reappeared--reporting on the Portuguese elections) Anyway, just how good is the BBC coverage of world events? While not questioning the undoubted quality of the almost hourly news bulletins, I would suggest that programs like RADIO NEWSREEL leave quite a lot to be desired, both in terms of comprehensive coverage and topicality. One only has to listen to the 0015 GMT edition to be aware of this.

(Chester Funnyé, Atlanta GA) I want to express my gratitude to all those at the BBC World Service for their unbiased news and interesting features. I feel just the opposite for R. Moscow, and their anti-BBC propaganda campaign. Ihope the world ignores this campaign and others. With the programs it produces, the BBC will always shine and Moscow always come up last.

(Don Moore, PA) After listening to several of BBC's Xmas programs it is obvious why they are considered tops in programming. Sheer excellence. Our TV networks could use several lessons from the BBC considering the simple-minded nonsense they put on the airwaves.

(Syd Osterman, Toronto, Ont.) Re Sept RIB, p. 26. I note Mark Ward's comment about the Guardian publishing the WS schedule. This does not necessarily indicate an upsurge in SW listeners! The Daily Telegraph also gives such a schedule,but for mediumwave 648 kHz. Recent newspaper editorials suggested a reduction in the BBC local radio budget, in favor of the WS. The potential loss of international prestige is becoming apparent. Also a possible reduction of tourist revenue. The British Tourist Authority is worried by the expected ending of BBC external service programs for tourists to Britain; for example, "Flash Touristique" is broadcast 16 times per week, and recently won an award plaque. While waiting for Sat. soccer results, hrd the WS announcer read a letter from Sierra Leone about a new stadium built by the Chinese and congratulated them. Impartiality!

(Maxfield Greenwood, PA) BBC's MAGICAL MYSTERY TOUR at 0630 has been replaced by a new show called DJ ROUNDUP--a review of the week's new pop releases. A step backward indeed, if in fact it has replaced MMT altogether. This show is not much, compared to John Peel or Sara Ward shows. It is really naught but top ten fluff.

gh: February London Calling is very late in arriving, so we are again forced to refer to the less reliable thirdly BBC WS Arts & Features booklet for some February projected programs--Drama: PLAY OF THE WEEK Sat 1830, Sun 0030 & 1130: Feb. 2, "Time and the Conways" by J B Priestley. Feb. 9, "The Resurrectionist" by David Buck. Feb. 23, "The Mollusc" by Hubert Henry Davies. RADIO THEATRE Sun 1915, Thu 0030, Fri 1330: Feb. 10, "C'est la Shoestring" by Christopher Russell; Feb. 17, "The Assassin" by Eric Saward; Feb. 24, "The Short-Sighted Optimist" by Hugh Steadman Williams.

Talks. Mon 1400, Wed 2030, Thu 0330 thru Feb 18, INTO THE EIGHTIES. Sat 0815, Mon 0315, Tue at 1615 during Feb. THE FEW on minority groups. Sat 0430, 1315, Mon 0815, Tue 2315, COME HERE thru Mar. 22 on holidays in Britain.

Readings. Mon 0530, Tue 1630, Wed 0145 & 1015, TAKEN AT THE FLOOD by Agatha Christie, thru 3/17

Features. Sat 1130, Sun 1830, Fri 0230: Feb. 2, INVISIBLE EXPORTS (banking & insurance); Feb.9 onwards, THE ENERGY EQUATION. Sat 2045, Mon 1000, Wed 1615: Jan. 26, THE LURE OF GOLD. Feb. 2, DIAMONDS ARE FOREVER. Feb. 9-Apr. 26, LAND AND PEOPLE--a major series in which Professor Asa Briggs examines the relevance of British social history to the world today. Tue 0030 & 2030, Wed 1330, Sun 1130: Jan. 22, THE SOUL'S DISPENSARY--the London Library. Jan. 29, THIS FOLLY OF MINE--Pepys' Love Affair. Feb. 5, THE SIEGE OF MALTA in 1940. Feb. 12, SPEAK TO US OF LOVE. Feb. 19, THE ISLAMIC RENAISSANCE.

(New York Times, December 19, via Malcolm Kaufman)

The Voice of America Getting a New Director

Although there is no official word yet from President Carter, Mary Foley Bitterman of Honolulu will be the Voice of America's new director, succeeding R. Peter Straus, who has returned to radio station WMCA in New York.

Associated Press

Mary Foley Bitterman

Dr. Bitterman, who is 35 years old, entered broadcasting five years ago and has since headed KHET, the Public Broadcasting Service television station in Hawaii. She was previously at the University of Hawaii, where she is still president of the East-West Center and her husband is a psychology professor. A graduate of the University of Santa Clara, she has a Ph D. from Bryn Mawr in modern history. She is also a former vice chairman of the Hawaii state Democratic Party.

Chiefly an administrator at KHET, Dr. Bitterman produced and narrated a documentary of one of her trips to China. Her husband and their small daughter will move to the Washington area with her, and she said that what she would miss most would be "swimming in the ocean every day."

Mr. Straus resigned in October, acknowledging that he might support Senator Edward M. Kennedy's Presidential candidacy. Mentioned along with Dr. Bitterman as a likely successor was **Chloe Aaron**, the PBS senior vice president for programming, but there was a problem with the Voice of America post for her: Her husband, **David Aaron**, is deputy assistant to **Zbigniew Brzezinski**, the President's adviser for national security.

U S A (Chester Funnyé, (FUN-nay), Atlanta GA) Even though I rarely listen to the VOA, I think their news is #2, second only to the BBC. I can't understand why people say the VOA's news is biased. Do you ever hear about how rich and how advanced this country is? Do you ever hear bragging like Moscow does? I don't. I don't listen to the VOA because it is American as I am American. I feel subjects would bore me because it is intended for foreigners. If I were a foreigner, I probably would listen more. I hope those of you out there who listen to Moscow and other commies won't believe what you hear about the USA. Sure, our country isn't perfect; there is inflation, unemployment, crime, exploitation, but we are #1 and no communist propaganda or world opinion will change that. I think it is good for foreigners to hear our domestic radio on AFRTS. They can hear just how unbiased our reporting is, despite some countries saying it is biased and propaganda-filled. It is an excellent service and hope it continues.

(Arthur T. Cushen, Invercargill, New Zealand) I noted your comment on Radio Nederland concerning the AFRTVS programme. Maybe they are not technically perfect, but they are certainly a great boom to us here in New Zealand, as we do enjoy day-long reception of the two frequencies from Delano, 21570 and 25615 kHz.

gh: USIA has a few other Open Assignments, in case anyone is interested--this is a comprehensive list of VOA/EA positions opening through March 1981. Overseas (job/post/grade/TOD/job opens): 1) Power plant ass't supv, Liberia, R-5, 48, 1/80. 2) Receiver Plant supv, Philippines, R-4, 48, 8/80. 3) Receiver Plant supv, Kavala, R-4, 48, 8/80. 4) Bldg/ground supv, Liberia, R-5, 48, 11/80. 5) Receiver Plant supv, Liberia, R-4, 48, 5/80. 6) Exec. Officer, Tangier, R-4, 48, 12/80. 7) Relay Stn. Mgr., Philippines, R-2, 48, 11/81. Domestic (job opens/grade/job): 4/80, FSR-5, VOA/EO Marathon Relay Stn, Mgr. 7/80, FSR-4, VOA-EO Greenville Relay Stn Plant C Supervisor. 10/80, FSR-4 VOA-EO Greenville Relay Station Plant A Supervisor.

(Roger Piantadosi, Radio column, Dec. 22 Washington Post via Foxworth) Two hours of listeners' Xmas Eve messages phoned-in to WRC were to be aired in English & Farsi on VOA for students & hostages.

(New York Daily News, Dec. 9, via Arthur S. Getzel and Ray Zantarski)

Voice of America has laryngitis on Iran

By STAN CARTER

While Iranians were listening a year ago to Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini's tape-recorded exhortations to overthrow the shah, beamed at them continuously by radio stations just over the border in the Soviet Union, the only counter-propaganda that they heard was over Iranian government-run radio and television.

The Voice of America was silent. It not only didn't take sides between the shah and the revolutionary forces opposing him, it did not at the time even broadcast any programs in Pharsee, the principal language of the country.

Whether the worldwide U.S. radio network's role should have been different than it was is a matter of dispute between those who believe the VOA should be a government propaganda agency and those who believe it should be an independent news agency with no propaganda function.

"Iran's revolution was won on the airwaves before the mob took over the streets of Tehran," a VOA employe in New York who believes that the agency should play a more active propaganda role declared last week. "From his exile in France, Khomeini sent his taped messages to the Moscow-sponsored stations beaming barrages of anti-shah propaganda at Iran in Pharsee. Khomeini's $1.25 cassettes may have been the decisive factors in winning the battle on the air, practically unopposed.

"The Voice of America, the U.S. government's spokesman on the airwaves, did not speak to Iran until May of this year—three months after the revolutionary government took power. Unbelievable as it may sound, even now when the Iran crisis occupies the administration around the clock, VOA's broadcasts to Iran still total only one daily 30-minute program.

"The official excuse at the VOA office in Washington is that they haven't been able to find enough Iranian staffers to broadcast any longer. It's ridiculous—this country is teaming with Iranians."

Although he described himself as a "whistle blower," the employe did not want to be quoted by name. But he is a native of Eastern Europe who works for one of the Voice's language services.

According to a Voice staffer in Washington, the Voice's East European staffers, most of whom were recruited at the height of the cold war, take a much harder line than others in the agency on ideological issues. They also have considerable political clout. When the Voice wanted to cut its Serbo-Croatian broadcasts, for instance, congressional pressure prevented the reduction.

The VOA's charter calls on it to be "accurate, objective and comprehensive" as well as "reliable" and "authoritative" in its news, and to "present the policies of the United States clearly and effectively" along with "responsible discussion and opinion on these policies."

There are conflicting views about what this should mean in practice. When the broadcasting service was established at the beginning of the cold war, it was set up as an official government information agency to transmit the U.S. message abroad. But over the years the idea has grown that it should broadcast straight news about the United States, "warts and all," and give an objective account of developments elsewhere in the world.

Throughout most of its existence, the Voice has had to trim its programs because of lack of money. At least since the cold war faded, its appropriations have been among the first to be cut by Congress. According to officials in Washington, the reason there were no Pharsee-language broadcasts until last May was not that Iranian staffers couldn't be found, but that there wasn't sufficient money to hire them.

(New York Times, Dec. 17, via Malcolm Kaufman and Bob Foxworth)

U. S., Wary of Islamic Upheaval, to Increase Broadcasts to Moslems

By DAVID BINDER
Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Dec. 16 — In a response to what the White House perceives as the prospect of long-term ferment in the Moslem world, President Carter last week approved portions of a plan to expand United States radio broadcasts in Persian and in seven languages of Moslems in the Soviet Union, Administration officials say.

Administration sources said Friday that the plan was outlined and agreed upon Tuesday at a White House meeting of the Special Coordination Committee, which is headed by Zbigniew Brzezinski, the President's national security adviser.

The plan envisions the spending of about $1 million to expand Voice of America broadcasts in Persian, which now occupy two hours a day. In addition, the Administration is to explore the possibility of buying time on Saudi Arabian, Egyptian and Israeli transmitters for broadcasts into the Soviet Union in seven of the languages of that country's 50 million Moslems. Israel has reportedly indicated an interest in the idea, although some American officials said broadcasts from Israel to Moslems would be of doubtful value.

Extra $2 Million for Radio Liberty

The group also approved the spending of about $2 million to improve the effectiveness of Radio Liberty programs aimed at Soviet Moslems, the officials said.

Expansion of the broadcasting services to the Islamic world is in large part owing to the efforts of Paul B. Henze, the National Security Council specialist on United States propaganda, the officials said. Mr. Henze was formerly the Central Intelligence Agency's station chief in Turkey.

Attending the Tuesday meeting with Mr. Henze were David D. Newsom, Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs; John E. Reinhardt, director of the International Communications Agency; John A. Gronouski, director of the Board for International Broadcasting; Frank C. Cariucci, deputy director of the C.I.A., and John P. White, deputy director of the Office of Management and Budget.

Mr. Reinhardt, Mr. Gronouski and Mr. Henze acknowledged that the White House meeting had taken place, but declined to comment on it. Mr. Henze said he knew details of the session. But he heatedly accused a reporter of being "another example of the press wallowing in a crisis in an irresponsible way" and undermining "national security." He asked to be quoted on that point.

One Proposal Reported Stalled

According to other officials, a fourth proposal from Mr. Henze, to build new transmitters so that more Soviet Moslems can be reached by the United States programs, was stalled at the White House meeting on the ground that there was no hospitable location for them and that they would take years to install. The Office of Management and Budget opposed the new transmitters, saying they should be authorized only if convenient sites and adequate staff were available.

This reservation is said to directly affect Radio Liberty, which was founded in the early 1950's by the C.I.A. and is now under the supervision of the Board for International Broadcasting, an independent agency subject to oversight from Congress, from which it draws its funds.

About 50 people at its headquarters in Munich are involved in broadcasting to Soviet Moslems. Most of them, described as elderly, were recruited at refugee camps in Germany after World War II. They broadcast three hours a day in Uzbek and Azeri, four hours in Tatar, two hours in Kazakh and one each in the Kirghiz, Turkmen and Tadjik languages. Few speak English.

Radio Liberty's signal to Soviet Central Asia, where most of the country's Moslems live, comes mainly from transmitters in Spain and West Germany. It is relatively weak and is jammed by the Soviet Union.

Many Years in Clandestine Radio

Nevertheless, the 55-year-old Mr. Henze, who spent many years in the C.I.A.'s clandestine radio serices in Munich and Ethiopia, persists in his hopes of expanding American transmissions to the Islamic world, especially in the Soviet Union, the officials said.

Voice of America's problems in carrying the United States message to Moslems, particularly with regard to the Iran crisis, are simpler than those of Radio Liberty, according to Mr. Reinhardt. He said in an interview that the Voice of America had resumed broadcasting in Persian to Iran in the spring after a hiatus of more than 20 years.

In April, when the station's Persian-language transmissions began, the broadcasts lasted for a half hour. An additional half hour was added on Nov. 20, two weeks after the American Embassy in Teheran was seized. The station now transmits for two hours a day in Persian.

Mr. Reinhardt said he would like to expand the Persian-language programs to "four, five, ten hours" a day to get the American message across to Iran. He said the station's output in Persian was exceeded by Radio Moscow and Radio Baghdad, and was matched by other Soviet transmitters. Competition also comes from China, West Germany, Britain, India, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Albania. He said the Voice of America was building 12 new transmitters that would extend the reach of the American signal from stations in the Philippines, Greece and England.

Not Inspired by Moscow

A typical Persian-language broadcast last week over the Voice of America included eight-and-a-half minutes of news on the hostage crisis, commentaries, and a report on an American conference dealing with terrorism.

It has been the view of most Administration specialists in Islamic affairs that recent outbursts of anti-American sentiment, culminating in attacks on American installations in Iran, Pakistan, Bangladesh, India and Libya, have not been linked or coordinated by Moslems, and certainly not inspired by Moscow.

Mr. Henze, however, holds to the view that the entire Islamic world is undergoing a revival of spirit and identity that is destined to continue for years and should be addressed in American propaganda undertakings.

(Don Moore, PA) Recently spent several hours monitoring a seldom commented-upon station. Programming is very dull. With the exception of a few brief technical reports and the weather, all programming is done by one monotoned announcer with a very limited vocabulary. Much of the broadcast is given over to the endless playing of a very tedious and unimaginative interval signal. Even R. Tirana is a breath of fresh air after 30 minutes of WWV!

(Maxfield Greenwood, PA) A suspicious thought! Sometimes I think WWV is a crock. Especially navigational communications report at XX16 hours. Tonight at 0430 19 meters went dead, a sudden total wipe-out. At 0516 on 5000 kHz I hear them saying there are no adverse propagation effects at this time. This is at least the 4th time that what I hear, and what they say have nothing in common. I suspect they are gold-bricking. I mean, if they can't detect a whole band going dead--what can I think?! Geez, all they have to do is have monitors--maybe they do, sleeping monitors that is!!

gh: I believe the XX16 announcements refer to Omega, on VLF, which has hardly anything in common with 19 meters!! However, I have noted some outdated info on the XX18 announcements, simply because they are not updated every hour, and presumably it would be too expensive to do so. One should not criticise WWV about this 1) because the info is provided by other agencies and WWV is merely the means of dissemination, and 2) without understanding the full significance of the data.

gh: On Dec. 30, my Cuban trip companion Ron Schatz drove us up to visit WYFR, Okeechobee. To find the site, you drive about 15 miles north of the town on US 441, and go a mile past state 68, then turn left at the T onto C-724 and go about 8 miles west, by which time the towers will be visible to the left. In the center of the antenna farm is a large metal building on ground built up a few feet to minimize potential flooding of equipment, and providing a lake to one side sometimes inhabited by the WYFR Alligator. When we showed up on a Sunday afternoon only one man was running the four transmitters, and he was very busy each hour at 50-60 during program and transmitter switching. But they are very glad to show visitors around; no one had signed the register since early

November. As one would expect the place was a bit of a mess, as construction is not complete. Two more transmitters had arrived from Scituate but were not yet operational here. The building has been designed to house a total of 10 transmitters. They expect the further installations to go more and more smoothly as experience is gained. It certainly is in an isolated spot, a far cry from built-up Scituate. The access highway is called "Eagle Island Road" but we did not see any such marking at the intersection or elsewhere. Throughout the building are monitoring speakers, with a system automatically switching them from one transmitter to another every few seconds. So we would hear a few seconds of Russian, a few of English, Russian, English, etc. Rather hard to follow--but then we all know what the message is! In case you don't know, all the programming is on tapes prepared in Oakland, except for network newscasts. Presently a lot of manual switching is required, but the station ultimately will be computer-controlled. There are no plans to do any program production at the Okeechobee site, tho an AM or FM station there is a remote future possibility. On the way back to Ft. Lauderdale we had an enjoyable visit with RIBber Steve Kennedy in Immokalee.

(Mike Dorner, Metairie LA) Joseph Costello, owner of local WRNO (FM), an AOR rocker, has applied for a shortwave license, with studios adjacent to the FM and transmitter south of Gretna on the Lafitte Hiway. I believe the legal notice in the classifieds (which was never repeated) said 100 kW. No note on what they'll run. I hope not more Bible thumping.

gh: I interviewed Mr. Costello and learned the following: He's been a ham since the age of 17; before that he was an SWL, call WPE5DJ. An engineer, he put WRNO on the air in 1967 and has added five more stations and 11 movie theatres. He says he served on the select advisory group (Van Deerlin) to rewrite the Communications Act of 1934, but came to the conclusion it did not need rewriting. He also discovered the simplicity of the rules regarding shortwave, and decided to apply for his own. He has no desire to tout propaganda, but is devoted to rock music as a format. The shortwave station would be automated with the same 'stereo rock' service heard on domestic stations, including oldies and recurrents, but with a more international current list. The antenna will be a TCI with a broad 90° beamwidth centered on 46° east of north, i.e. toward Europe, or in US terms covering from Minneapolis to Boston to Atlanta. It is 121 feet high, 300' deep in a V or Y shape, on a 300 acre site. Gain, 12 db. He believes that the format of 25 minutes of rock music and 5 minutes of network news per half hour would be commercially viable on its own, especially since his existing station WRNO can provide programming and administrative support. One exception to the rock format would be certain religious programs on Sunday morning, and some public affairs programming, although not required to do so. Multi-national advertisers, of course, would be sought. If the European (and not incidentally, North American) service is successful, there is space to add antennas for a further service to Latin America. The transmitter, a 100-kW Harris, has already been purchased. The ERP would be on the order of 1.6 megawatts. As of Jan. 7, the FCC was reviewing the application, public notice was expected in a few days; then there would be a 30-day period for ITU approval and it is hoped, shortly thereafter the issuance of a construction permit, which would mean an on the air target date toward the end of 1980. He wants the call "WRNO" also to apply to the shortwave outlet and will use the slogan "Rock of the World". See another such story under ALASKA.

U S S R (Joe Tangredi, Las Vegas NV) Two Cheers for Radio Moscow. Listening to the North American Service on New Year's Eve, I found, much to my astonishment, that I had been named "Listener of the Month" for last November. I didn't know whether to swell with pride or hang my head in shame. As if that 'honor' weren't enough, I later learned that they liked my letter so much, I had been awarded Second Prize in their 50th Anniversary Contest--you know, the one that asked, "When did you first hear a Radio Moscow broadcast?" and, "Why do you listen to Radio Moscow?" Let me explain right away, lest you get the idea that listening to Radio Moscow has slowly transformed me into some kind of pinko subversive.

I entered the contest in November, mainly for the hell of it, and wrote about a page and a half of mostly honest (though in some parts overly flattering) remarks on their programming. Most of it was quite laudatory, though I threw in some criticism so they wouldn't think I was eagerly swallowing all of the manure they've been shoveling onto the airwaves over the past few years. I could have written a much more critical letter, but then, one usually enters a contest with the intention of winning! They described my letter as 'frank and straightforward', probably because I described US domestic news broadcasts as 'shallow' and inadequate. Knew they'd like that! Maybe if I said what I thought of their own news broadcasts, they wouldn't have been so quick to give me a prize! Anyway, First Prize went to a Robert Lorimer of CA, who won a 'rather voluminous book with beautiful pictures'. Third place went to a John Fannerstill (sp?), an 'ardent space enthusiast and follower of Jesus Christ.' Our prizes? We each won a book on Soviet-made porcelain.

Wow!!! Just what I always wanted! A book on Soviet-made PORCELAIN! And illustrated, too. They read my mind! I'm sure this prize will provide me with many seconds of pleasure...which is about the time it will take me to deposit it into the 'circular file' at the side of my desk! I don't mean to demean their gift, but at least they could consider the interests of a listener before

choosing a prize to bestow on him! In my letter I mentioned that I was very interested in Soviet education, culture, music and sports, but I don't recall ever having said I was into glazed ceramics.

Apart from all this, I must say that I do concur with Brian P. A. Roome's remarks in RIB 34; there has to be a vast improvement in the style and quality of most of Radio Moscow's programming, particularly the World Service. I hasten to add that RMWS is no match for the BBC when it comes to honest reporting, objectivity, and professionalism. But RMWS has developed a sophisticated style all its own, and no longer has the sound of a 'cheap imitation.' In recent months, RMWS have come up with a number of new, highly innovative program ideas, programs such as LISTENERS' FORUM, JUST FOR FUN, and STAMPS AND HOBBIES. December 24, I heard an excellent program called GUEST SPEAKER at 2210, on which two British schoolteachers staying in Moscow on a teacher exchange program, candidly answered questions from listeners all over the world, on such topics as Soviet literature, primary schools, the Young Pioneers, and even Russian cocktails. They also have a number of very nice musical programs, including MUSIC NON-STOP and TRANS-WORLD MUSIC EXPRESS, on which I recently heard some very good selections of pop music from Japan, Italy, the USA, Hungary, Bulgaria and the USSR.

Recently on the North American Service, I heard a program featuring interviews with Soviet high-school students, not in Russian, but in English, and in near-perfect English at that. It almost made me sick to my stomach to hear Russian tenth-graders express themselves so well, especially when I compared this to the present state of foreign-language education in this country.

So you see, you can still enjoy listening to a station's programs, even though you may be totally opposed to all that their country stands for.

Finally, some remarks on Joe Adamov's recent trip to the US. Dec. 30 on the North American Service he gave a brief retrospective of his experiences while visiting the States. He visited New York, where he appeared on ABC's GOOD MORNING AMERICA (which, regrettably, I missed; I like NBC's TODAY much better). He also visited Minnesota, traveled rather extensively in Kansas, and dropped in on WSDR (the station that plays his tapes) while in Illinois. All, no doubt, under the watchful eye of the KGB, hi.

With his amiable manner, self-effacing humor, and hearty laugh, it's hard not to like Joe Adamov, despite his constant verbal assaults on America and almost everything American. I would have loved to see him on GOODMORNING AMERICA, though. According to Adamov he had a brief discussion on the air with David Hartman, and a half-hour talk with Hartman after the show. He said he assured Hartman he wouldn't be 'sent to Siberia' for anything he said on the program that might be at odds with Soviet government policy. Ha! When was the last time anyone heard Adamov deviate more than an inch from the official Communist Party line? Can you imagine Joe Adamov saying something that would really damage the Soviet Union's image, like, "I don't like what my country is doing in Afghanistan," for instance? Let's face it. To pretend that Adamov, or for that matter any of the announcers at RM are anything more than well-trained parrots, would be naive at best.

(Dean Fick, Lakeside OH) Among my favorite programs on the RMWS is the JUST FOR FUN program, heard on Tuesday from 1832 to 1900. It features two announcers who crack jokes in between various selections of music. If you tune in, you should be prepared for such knee-slappers as these heard on Christmas:

There was this club in the big city, strictly for men. One night, one member of the club walked in and was amazed to see women there. "What's happening here?" he asked the club chairman. "Well, the chairman replied, "we thought we'd have a lady's night once a week so you boys could bring your wives in for drinks and dinner." "That sounds great," the young man said, "but I'm not married. Could I bring a girlfriend in?" Well, the chairman thought for a second and replied, "That's a very difficult question! You'd better let me ask the board of the club." He disappeared into the office and came out a couple of minutes later. "The board says it's all right," said the chairman, "provided your girlfriend is the wife of a member of the club!" Or how about this one:

A pan handler stopped a man in the street and asked him for money for something to eat. (Radio Moscow's a poet and doesn't even know it!) The man said, "You know, I'll tell you what I'll do. I'll buy you a drink." "But, I don't drink!" said the panhandler. "Well," said the man, "I'll give you a couple of good packs of cigarettes." "I don't smoke," said the pan handler, "All I want is a little money for something to eat!" "You know, I've got a good tip on a white horse in the fifth this afternoon," the man continued, "and I'll put up the money. You take the winnings. How about that?" "But I don't gamble!" protested the panhandler, "All I want is a little money for something to eat!" "All right," said the man, "I'll tell you what I'll do. I want you to come to my house tonight for dinner. I want my wife to see what happens to a man who doesn't drink, doesn't smoke and doesn't gamble!!" I guess even Russians have to laugh once in a while.

(Richard A. Lucas, Stockton CA) I agree with R. Varron about the R. Moscow technical info. I remember one DX PROGRAM had an indoor "Hedgehog" antenna. You melt some lead, see, and pour it into a mold. Then you stick wires of proper length in this cooling mass. I could see some kid pulling apart his father's .30-.30 rounds and trying to melt the bullets.
gh: ?? Sure that wasn't on JUST FOR FUN?

(BBC MS World Broadcasting Information, Nov. 29, 1979)

On 15th November Radio Moscow broadcast for its domestic listeners a programme celebrating the 50th anniversary of Soviet broadcasting to foreign countries. Inter alia it stated that such broadcasting began in October 1929 with programmes in German, and in the 1930's Soviet radio was already broadcasting in all the main European languages. During the war years there were transmissions in almost all European languages as well as the main non-European ones, and their total output reached 50 hours per day.

Nowadays about 1,000 letters a day were received from listeners in 150 countries. The most common reason for listening to the voice of the Soviet people was, according to the programme, "Truth". Soviet foreign broadcasting endeavoured to take account of the diversity of its world-wide audience. Therefore, its broadcasts to various regions and countries differed in their contents, but all dealt with the Soviet way of life and its foreign policies, the current central theme of which was the "new peace initiatives" recently made in Berlin by President Brezhnev. A "meeting on the airwaves" against the missile arms race would be held by Moscow Radio at the start of December.

The Radio Moscow World Service inaugurated last year had gained "great popularity". It was somewhat similar to the well-known "Mayak" programme - it was an information and music programme in English which could be received almost round the clock at all points of the globe.

Soviet radio programmes for the foreign audience were broadcast not only from Moscow but also from regional radio centres in the Republics. Their total volume now greatly exceeded 200 hours per day and they were conducted in 77 languages.

(R. Moscow via Ralf F. Munster, Decatur GA)

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN THE HISTORY OF SOVIET-AMERICAN RELATIONS

the North American Service of Radio Moscow invites you to join its Listeners History Club and listen to the views of Soviet historians.

The Club will open its doors on November 16th this year, when we celebrate the 46th anniversary of diplomatic relations between the Soviet Union and the United States. After that it will hold nine more listening sessions according to the schedule on the back of this invitation.

We ask Club members to send questions and opinions about various events in the history of relations. If you run across pertinent material or documents in your press, include them. The more interesting letters and tape recordings will be used in our listening sessions.

You may want to tape these sessions for friends to hear. You may want to invite them to join the Listeners History Club. Tell them its motto is "Know History for Better Understanding Between Nations".

Drop us a line saying you would like to join. We'll respond with a membership card. When you let us know you have heard the ten discussions, we'll send a diploma. The most active members of our Listeners History Club will be awarded books and picture postcards on historical topics.

SCHEDULE OF DISCUSSIONS

November 16 1979	Forty-six years of diplomatic relations
November 30 1979	Relations between Russia and America during the American War of Independence
December 14 1979	Russo-American relations during the Civil War in the United States
December 28 1979	America's attitude toward the Russian socialist revolution of November 1917
January 11 1980	American participation in the revolutionary events of November 1917
January 25 1980	Soviet-American relations during the Great Depression of the 30's
February 8 1980	The Soviet Union and the United States as allies in the anti-Hitler coalition during WWII
February 22 1980	Soviet-American relations during the Cold War and the policy of President John Kennedy
March 7 1980	The visit of General Secretary of the Soviet Communist Party Leonid Brezhnev to the United States in 1973 and the decline of world tensions
March 21 1980	SALT-2 and the outlook for closer Soviet-American relations for the sake of world peace

All ten discussions will be broadcast at 23:20, 01:20 and 03:20 GMT. On subsequent days each one will be repeated at various times.

(Economist, Dec. 1-7, via Syd Osterman, Toronto)

Red jokes

What would the Russians do without the BBC? One of the more fascinating recent developments in international broadcasting is the sparkle of Moscow Radio's new world service in English—launched in October, 1978, with the BBC's world service as a model.

The new service—on the air 19 hours a day—is much more relaxed than Moscow Radio used to be. Each one-hour block of broadcasting contains about 10 minutes of news followed by 20 minutes of snappy topical reports on events in Malaysia, Ulster, the United States or wherever. The reports are more factual than before, and often quote western news agencies. At the half hour there is a news summary followed by about 25 minutes of feature material on non-political subjects—music, stamp collecting, the right number of children in a family. A lot of attention goes to listeners' letters from abroad (Moscow Radio claims to get 14,000 a month). The whole product, down to snazzy signature tunes, is better packaged than anything the Russians have done before.

The presenters even crack jokes. Who would have thought that a Soviet broadcaster, answering a question about KGB control, would reply that they are all KGB men, ha-ha? Still, a touch of the old Comrade Adam still lurks. Ever heard of Anthony Blunt? Moscow Radio's listeners haven't.

(Peter L. Fort, West Germany) BBC's WORLD RADIO CLUB conducted an exceptional program Dec. 9 focusing primarily upon the recent WARC and RMWS frequency allocation system. The announcers went into detail how the similarities between the BBC and RM World Services went beyond imitative programming into the use, by the RM version, of either adjacent or co-channel operational frequencies, interfering with long-established BBC frequencies. Hurray for the BBC for holding their ground in this not-so-subtle attempt by RM to usurp part of the current BBC audience, and for exposing the RM frequency allocation as well. It can only lead to further congestion and interference, aside from straining the BBC's already depleted budget. I can't condemn RMWS entirely, however, for it does present some interesting (music) programming and occasionally informative features. I'm sure the day will come when the style of the RMWS will cease to be so stilted and informational programs about the USSR will no longer contain such uninteresting one-sided accounts of how great socialism/communism is for modern society. Perhaps I have myself to blame--I haven't written to them in several years.

gh: You are being too hard on yourself.

(Douglas A. Irwin, Durham NH) BBC WORLD RADIO CLUB on 9 December discussed the 'new' Radio Moscow. Their World Service not only sounds similar to the BBC World Service, but it is also nearer to the BBC--in frequency, that is. The BBC has used 21.71 MHz for a long time. Not too soon after the RMWS was formed, Ivan appeared on 21.715 MHz. This type of occurrence developed on other frequencies also. Wherever the BBC was, only 5 kHz away was RMWS. A BBC frequency expert said this could cause confusion among listeners since the formats are so similar these days. But the one thing that separates London from Moscow is a decisive factor--the truth.

(Chester Funnyé, Atlanta GA) What can I say for R. Moscow: it is biased, dull, hypocritical, lying, etc. It drives me up the wall when I hear people believing all they hear on R. Moscow. For example, on MOSCOW MAILBAG you always hear of the Western listener who appreciates the fine coverage of Russia; while the capitalist press paints a bad picture about socialism. Why would a listener condemn his western media when there is no propaganda. When is the last time you saw rabid anti-communism on ABC, CBS, NBC, CBC, PBS or the BBC? A lot of people mistake the truth for propaganda. Don't get me wrong, I don't think my or anybody's media is perfect, but it's better than the Reds'.

(Richard Varron, Wayne NJ) CBS 60 MINUTES Jan. 6 ran a story on Soviet TV. In it they had an interview with Vladimir Pozner. Also, a look at Valentin Zorin, the RM "Observer" who does a piece on Saturday nights. Also, a few shots of Ol'ga Petrashova, the singer who seems to show up on every music program that RM runs.

On their weekend transmissions (GMT Sun 0050, 0250, 0450, 0650; repeated on Mondays) /Richard, have they changed, or are your PCS times off by an hour; shouldn't they be 0550 & 0750, and similarly in your other items below? -gh/ R. Moscow is presenting RUSSIAN FOLK TALES. This 10-minute weekly segment is a delightful diversion from hard news and commentaries, and is presented in a style of reading similar to that of R. Finland. In one tale, the story of Vlad and his battle for Kiev against the Tartars was recounted; another, "The 3 Bears" was a Russian version of the "Goldilocks" story. Since the stories are short and adhere to a single theme, they are ideal for those whose listening time is limited.

RM's NA Service has introduced a feature where the collective listenership challenges Anatoly Karpov, the world chess champion. A move would be made every two weeks beginning on Jan. 13, and listeners would mail in their reply in the interval. The move made on behalf of the listeners would be determined by the most frequent response.

gh: RMWS also announced this, for Jan. 13, 27, etc. at 0430, 1030, 1630, 1830, 2230 (Sundays), KARPOV VERSUS THE WORLD. I also note that still on the Jan. 11 PROGRAM GUIDE show, they are announcing contradictory times for MAILBAG, DX PROGRAM, and STAMPS & HOBBIES. Really, really stupid.

(Varron continues) R. Moscow NA Service began broadcasting EE by Radio on Jan. 8 /I assume you mean Russian by Radio, tho the height of Moscow's arrogance has no limits... -gh/ Mondays at 2335, GMT Tuesdays at 0135, 0335, 0535, 0735 /again, are those last two times off? -gh/. I suspect there will be a repeat later in the week at the same times.

(Larry Magne, PA) Notwithstanding the current nadir of US influence in the world, one can't help but notice that the Soviet Union did not do very well at the recently-concluded WARC. Surely their uninternationalist spirit, as manifested by their illegal use of the HF spectrum for jamming and the "pulser" did not help their cause in Geneva. A fine example of chickens coming home to roost!

(Bill Fait, OH) One thing we could all do about that 'Russian woodpecker' is write to R. Moscow in protest. The woodpecker has ruined my reception of Radio Moscow many times. If the people at North American Service were made sufficiently aware of the problem, maybe they could do something about it. I noticed less jamming of Radio Liberty between 1200 and 1600 GMT on 25690 kHz lately. Perhaps this trend will continue.

(Hadley Cress, VA) Radio Moscow's principal contribution to international shortwave broadcasting is their approximate one minute of silence immediately prior to the hour and half hour.

(Chester Funnyé, Atlanta GA) On Nov. 29, R. Kiev sent me a card wishing me a happy holidays and new year. This was propaganda in disguise because I told them in a letter what they can do with their broadcasts. They even had the guts to send me a survey form in which I sized up their broadcasts. R. Kiev has a terrible DX programme which is dedicated to hams. I wonder if they know this is shortwave /broadcast -gh/ and not the ham bands.

(Derek McElhinney, Reno NV) In my opinion, R. Kiev's LET'S DISCUSS IT program should be included in the next 'SWL' column. This show's panel 'discussions'of topics suggested in listeners' letters are usually quite engaging; at least I think so.

gh: R. Kiev features after NEWS, GMT days: Tue HELLO FROM KIEV, LET'S DISCUSS IT. Wed INTERNATIONAL COMMENTARY, MUSIC FROM UKRAINE. Thu PEOPLE & COMMUNISM, DX CLUB. Fri INTERNATIONAL COMMENTARY, MEET THE YOUTH. Sat UKRAINIAN PANORAMA. Sun INT'L COMMENTARY, MAILBAG. Mon UKRAINIAN PANORAMA.

V A T I C A N (Michael Fine, Sinai) One of the Vatican Radio's best efforts is the infrequent ALL ROADS LEAD TO ROME, with beautiful 'on-location' reports from some of Rome's lesser known sites. It is so well done that you can forgive an old Jesuit's (host Father Finn) occasional homiletical tone. They seem quite considerate of latecomers to their 1700 GMT service (perhaps that is not the right word) starting between one and four minutes late on frequent occasion. (Israel TV has the same distressing habit, though the discrepancy can be as much as one half hour in either direction. If, God forbid, the final program runs past midnight, the technicians refuse to transmit the final newsbulletin, which as it is called ALMOST MIDNIGHT must begin before the witching hour to be broadcast.)

gh: The VR January schedule shows a few interesting topics for the GMT-day 0100 broadcast: Sun 20 A SAINT FOR EVERYMAN. Tues CONSCIENTIZATION. Weds NOT LONG AGO. Fris CULTURE AND RELIGION, Jan 25 on Totemism. Sats THE NOW GENERATION.

(Michael C. Tripka, Highland Hts OH) Did anyone in the Americas hear Christmas Eve midnight Mass from Vatican Radio? The December schedule listed it as starting at 2355 CET, or 2255 GMT, which is an ideal time for Latin America, but the broadcast appears to have been beamed only to Europe. What I did hear at 2330 on 9615 was an excellent program of choral music, and a message from the Pope, but no Mass.

(World Scene, Philadelphia Inquirer, Dec. 21, via Bill Oliver) Meditation: "Even radios need moments of silence". "Lightning damaged a transmitter in Rome, knocking out Vatican Radio's medium-wave broadcasts for Western and Eastern European countries for about 18 hours. And to think those silly insurance companies always refer to such damages as acts of God.

V I E T N A M (Don Moore, Bellefonte PA) Tuned in to the Indo service of Voice of Vietnam at 0950 on 10040 Dec. 24 to wait for their English service to come on at 1000. Believe it or not they were playing "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas"! Why they would play an English Xmas carol in a foreign language broadcast to a predominantly Muslim country, but not later in the English service, is a good question. But then it was a surprise that they play Christmas music at all!

1979--THE SHORTWAVE YEAR IN REVIEW

by Glenn Hauser

(as broadcast on RCI DX DIGEST, 30 December 1979)

1979 was a year of many new shortwave stations, outnumbering those going off the air. Among the latter were Radio Brunei; Springbok Radio, South Africa; Radio Liberation from Oak Hill, Florida; WYFR from Scituate, Massachusetts. Voice of America, Dixon was replaced by a satellite; and BBC Malaysia by BBC Singapore. Resuming international services were Brazil, Philippines and Zambia. Radio Japan became a European broadcaster via Portugal. On Lenin's birthday, Havana began relaying Moscow, but the quality is so bad, we still call it "The Blob". The USSR also began relaying broadcasts from Cuba, as well as from Poland and Afghanistan. Radio Australia's Darwin site made a brief comeback, and a commitment to make it permanent.

Revolution transformed several stations. Radio Free Grenada with its daily death notices to the scratchy tune of "The Old Rugged Cross". Liberated from Amin, Radio Uganda began to show some signs of audio improvement. The Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran, equating hate and revenge with Islam; the Voice of the Kampuchean People and the Voice of Democratic Kampuchea waging a political battle while people are starving. And Radio Sandino allowed us to follow the Nicaraguan revolution, blow by blow, until it was transformed from a clandestine station into the national network.

A Costa Rican private and political station came out of nowhere--Radio Noticias del Continente, taking advantage of a free press to attack South American military dictatorships. Among the year's big surprises were an Argentine Archangel allegedly in Antarctica; Africa Number One, Gabon, finally 'on the air' and giving away a sports car. Other notable new stations were Radio Educación, Mexico; the Voice of Asia, Taiwan; on the clandestine side, Ba-Yi, opposing the Chinese government; the Voice of Hope, with a Christian solution to Lebanon's problems. And Britain acquired a home-grown right-wing clandestine, Radio Enoch. Pirate radio continued to flourish in North America, as exemplified by "WDAB, Daytona Beach."

The year's station anniversaries included the 50th for Radio Moscow, and for Germany on shortwave; the 40th for Radio Australia; and the 60th for broadcasting in Holland. RTVD Dominican Republic began the year with big plans for an international service, but after a succession of directors, and two hurricanes, could barely be heard at yearend. The Voice of Israel thought it had won the long struggle to broadcast in the North American evenings, but in Israel nothing is

certain, and we're still waiting for the prime-time service to start.

The CBC Northern shortwave service went more and more native, to the pleasure of the Inuit and Cree, and to the displeasure of Americans who have no other way of hearing some Canadian domestic programs. RCI underwent a major budget cut, and acquired a new director, Betty Zimmerman. The BBC external services were threatened again, this time with a 4-million pound but by the Thatcher government; this outraged BBC supporters, so the cut was reduced to 2.7 millions, and several languages were saved, at the expense of reception improvements.

Norway tried SSB broadcasting for a couple of months; Switzerland abruptly ended its SSB experiment, and threatened to jam any station challenging SBC's monopoly in Switzerland. As its jamming of western stations stopped, China posed another problem to those and many other stations--thousands and thousands of letters flooded in from listeners in China, more than they could hope to answer. Radio Free Europe found a way around jamming--by starting a 10-minute weekly commentary in English.

"The Woodpecker" kept disrupting our listening, and it was reported that not only the Soviet Union, but the United States was responsible. Technical problems continued to plague AFRTS, RCI, Kol Israel; and Radio Nederland had to change the routing of its feed to Bonaire. BRT Belgium was out on strike for several weeks.

In 1979 the World Administrative Radio Conference, under a veil of secrecy, finally agreed on an expansion of AM, FM and shortwave broadcasting bands--but with a long wait built in: until 1989.

Surprising some 'experts', solar cycle 21 went much higher than expected, peaking at a solar flux of 383, November 10th. Only a handful of stations would use the wide-open 25 megahertz band, yet the maximum usable frequency was often 45 MHz, making trans-Atlantic TVDX almost commonplace.

Among the year's prime DX catches were Falkland Islands, heard by several North American DXers, leaving them with no other goal than Tristan da Cunha; and 10-watt CKFX Vancouver heard not only thruout North America, but in New Zealand and Australia.

Two major new publications appeared: Arthur Cushen's autobiography, 'The World in My Ears', and Mitch Murray's record, 'Long Live Shortwave'.

There continued to be some turnover in DX clubs--the Argentine DX Club International went out of business, but not before another fine Argentine club got underway, Asociación DX del Litoral. The Tropical DX Newsletter folded. The International Shortwave Club held another station popularity poll, and one station, Radio Nederland, publicized it excessively, while most stations ignored it as unscientific. Joe Adamov could not make it to the 1979 ANARC Convention in Minneapolis, but a record 200 enthusiastic listeners and broadcasters did. Though he had not been on the air for a year, Rudy Espinal was named ANARC's international broadcaster of the year. The HAP auction, under the gavel of Ian McFarland, set another new record. In the Review of International Broadcasting Awards for Excellence, a small panel of readers chose BBC World Service the best, and Radio Tirana the worst--and as best DX program, DX Digest.

Transitions: Dick Speekman left DX Juke Box; Reg Kennedy left World Radio Club; Patrick Humphreys departed Radio Finland; and Glenys Dickson left Radio Australia to concentrate on ballet. Some old-time DXers passed away, including Hank Tyndall of Vermont, known for his huge collection of mediumwave QSLs.

Radio Sweden adopted a QSL policy somewhere between Finland and Canada. Radio Finland decided to deal in items other than programs, with a T-shirt giveaway. Radio Australia let its listeners bet on a horserace for a trip to Australia, and toward yearend, finally realized the Listeners' Club, and QSLs on demand, had to go.

Big things and little things at HCJB--their homemade 500-kilowatt transmitter was completed, while their 100-watt test on 11 meters proved they didn't need it. /later word indicates the transmitter has not been completed/ HCJB also expanded into the tropical bands. At the other extreme, gospel interests purchased land for a shortwave station in Alaska.

The Voice of America added Hausa to its lineup of languages, and in February /April?/, Persian. In November, the VOA found it necessary to add two more Persian transmissions, having ignored Iran before 1979. The Voice of America's monopoly on 'special English' was broken, by of all stations, the Voice of Vietnam. Moscow and Peking gave us a chance not to learn Russian and Chinese at the same time.

And Deutsche Welle continued to broadcast 12½ times as much German as English to North America. Do they know something we don't?

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GH'S DX NEWS FOR RCI DX DIGEST

(Dec. 16 ff, all DX news was pre-empted by extensive WARC 79 coverage)

(Dec. 23 1800+, 1900+, 24 0300+) I've heard the Voice of Turkey announcing that as of January first, the 2130 broadcast is replaced by two one-hour English programs--to western Europe at 2030 on 11955 and 9550; and to many targets including North America, at 2200 on 7215, 9515, 9550 and 11955. Radio Sofia has changed a frequency in English at 2130 and 0430--9530 replaces 9765. I've also noted BRT, Belgium on new 11700 in English at 0015, better than the old 11715. HCJB, Ecuador has adjusted to 15120 at 0230-0600 in English to North America /see later report/ and following our advice on 26 MHz, has moved the 100-watt test to a clear frequency, 26020. Bob Zilmer reports that Israel has shifted again to 29725 at 1400 in Yiddish, 1430 in Russian. English at 1200 has moved to 17615, to avoid Radio Nederland on 17605. From Paraguay, Tony Jones reports this as of December first: Bolivia: Radio Grigotá seems to have settled on 4830. Radio Batallón Colorados has reactivated 6185, sign on at 1100. Brazil: New on 3375 is Rádio Clube de Dourados, signing off at 0400. And a Rádio Educadora on 3570 heard sometimes until 0400. Radio Globo has been on 15313 irregularly for several weeks. Bob Padula in Australia heard Kalaalit Nunaat, or as we know it, Greenland, on 9575 signing on earlier than before, at 1000 hours, heard until 1030, mostly free of interference. BBC Monitoring Service reports Voice of the People of Burma has expanded transmissions from a different transmitter site, with 'combat news' and music on 7570 and 6323 at 0030-0330, 0630-0930 and 1200-1400. English from Mongolia is now observed daily except Sundays at 1220-1250 on 12070 and 6383; and at 1715-1745 on 9575 and 7260. Libya's high power frequencies are now 17930, 11690 and 9600 at 1000-2210 more or less. The other transmitter is on 15415 until 1500, then on 15435, and after 1700, 11790. Meanwhile, Cyclops, Malta has been carrying Libya's external service in English daily at 1500-1530 on 7120. Shortwave News Service says besides the Cincinnati airport station on 1610, another TIS is heard on that frequency at Annapolis, Maryland. Max Greenwood says Radio Apintie, Surinam on 4794 also has an ID sounding like Radio Colcha, heard on a Sunday at 0900.

(Dec. 24 0100+, partly 26 2130+) The FCC has voted 6 to nothing to adopt 9 kHz mediumwave spacing in the US, in order to squeeze in even more AM stations--4,500 just aren't enough. WDAB, which claims to be in Daytona Beach, Florida, has a new schedule--90% of their broadcasts will be for one hour sometime between 0000 and 0200 GMT, any night of the week, on 6213. WDAB is also considering tests on the 13 meter band, says info forwarded by Ray Zantarski. Radio Cavendish told Mike MacCollum that they would test for North America in January on 6260 and 7320; no times given but perhaps Sundays around 0900. The British right-wing clandestine Radio Enoch says they're starting a 'world service' on SSB with 4 kilowatts PEP at 0400 in the 48 meterband, probably 6250, according to Mike Barraclough. Free Radio Campaign reports that Radio Nautilus International, from the east coast of North America, may go on the air Christmas Eve around 0400 with 35 watts on 2390; their summer frequency is 6275. Deutsche Welle will have lots of special Christmas programs on its regular German broadcasts December 24, 25 and 26. Bob Padula says, in previous years, RadioBerlin International, East Germany ran special German services on Christmas day, to Africa at 1000; check 21465, 21540 and 16 metres. And Christmas Eve at 2157 GMT, the Voice of Israel will carry a live broadcast of the midnight mass from the church of the nativity in Bethlehem, on 9815 and 11637, until approximately 2345. Gordon Byrd says, on Christmas Eve, WBT-1110 Charlotte will turn into old-time radio. Yet another version of 'A Christmas Carol' will be on CBS Radio Mystery Theatre Christmas eve, starring host E.G. Marshall as Scrooge. Saturday the 29th, "Don Quixote"; and Sunday the 30th, a civil war version of "Antigone". Ken MacHarg says WHAS-840 Louisville will broadcast this on Christmas Eve--at midnight GMT, the Mercury Theatre production of "A Christmas Carol"; at 0100, Handel's "Messiah": at 0330 WHAS Christmas Card; and at 0600, "Amahl and the Night Visitors". On the Christmas Eve Eclectic Circus on CBC Radio, Allan McFee will read "All Creatures Great & Small". On Dec. 25th and 26th at 2310 GMT on RCI, the "Seventies" and the "Eighties". The 26th GMT at 0005, CBC is carrying the BBC musical "A Christmas Carol". On December 31st, CBC Radio begins a 15-part reading of "The Lost Honor of Katharina Blum" on Booktime, at 10:20 pm local. Listeners in the New York City area can now hear my World of Radio DX program, Fridays at 1:30 eastern time, on WCWP, 88.1 FM. The propagation outlook: solar activity should be low until January first, then increasing to moderate, and peaking around January 6th to 8th. The geomagnetic field should be quiet to slightly unsettled, except for December 27th and January 6th: unsettled to slightly active.

(Dec. 30 ff. No DX news, but gh's "1979--the Shortwave Year in Review"; see elsewhere this issue.

(Jan. 6, 1980, 1800+, 1900+, 0100+, 0300+) Another definite logging of Falkland Islands Broadcasting Service--this one from Brett Saylor in Pennsylvania, December 29th with BBC Radio Newsreel around 0113 and a clear, full ID at sign-off 0130, on 2370. Two reports of Nicaragua's Radio

Zlnica, 6120: Jack Jones heard IDs in Spanish, and English around 1130. And in Pennsylvania, Maxfield Greenwood heard it at 1145-1215. He's also been hearing what he believes is a new Costa Rican station on 6023, signing on at 1025. And, Mongolia was barely audible in English at 1220 on 6383. In Radio Australia's Japanese DX program, Sei-ichi Hasegawa says Mongolia is a new country on mediumwave, heard on 827 and 882 kHz, closing at 1500 GMT. And, Peter Bunn heard Abu Dhabi in the clear, at least in Australia, at 1400-1500 on 9695. Mike Bolitho in Ontario says Guinea-Bissau is back, on 5040, heard signing on one day at 0700, the next day at 0600. Bob Zilmer in Wisconsin heard Radio Kuwait on new 21765 around 1345, parallel to 21685. Bob also says Radio Sweden has moved back to 15275 in English to North America at 2300. Bob Padula in Australia reports BBC has moved Ascension from 15400 to 15360 at 0330-0445; and at 2030 he heard Habana in Spanish on 17930. Is Libya relaying Cuba too? I've just spent a few days in Habana; for my report on radio there, listen to Radio Nederland's DX Juke Box January 17th. BBC Monitoring Service has heard Comandante David with his anti-Castro Radio Libertad Cubana on 7088 at 0200, announcing a Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday schedule. BBCMS says Radio Nepal is again on 3425, replacing 7105. And Sa'udi Arabia's English on 11855 has expanded to 1800-2200; and a sked via Stu Klein says the morning transmission on Thursdays and Fridays begins an hour earlier at 1000.

(Jan. 6 2000+, 7 0200+, 0400+; both parts may have been used Jan. 9 at 2130+) Now it's New Orleans which may get a shortwave station. Mike Dorner says WRNO (FM) has applied for a license to broadcast on shortwave. In New York, Bob Foxworth succeeded in DXing the European Music Radio test to North America, December 16th, at 0800-0900 on 6235 and 7325. Bob also says Radio Skandinavia, via Andorra, had a nice signal until about 2200 on 6215.4. The program is aired the first and third Sunday of each month, such as January 6th, and 20th. Another timely item is pirate WVOT, The Voice of Togetherness, from the US Midwest. Their January broadcast is scheduled at 2200 GMT, January 6th, on 28640. On CBC Radio, Sussex Drive is back for another series, Thursdays at 8:04 pm local. And, CBC'slatest try Saturdays at 11:30 am is the quiz show with countries as prizes, Conquest. In the US, Sears Radio Theatre moves from CBS to Mutual in February; and CBS Radio Mystery Theatre has already but back to Monday-Friday only; this week with a five-parter, The Last Days of Pompeii.

(Jan. 13, 1800+, 1900+, 14 0300+) Another new 'country' on shortwave--in QTH Africa, Miki Včelař says Capital Radio, Transkei, uses 3950 at 0400-0530 and 1600-2300, and 7160 at 0530-1600, with 10 kilowatts beamed toward Cape Town. However, on the first day, Dec. 26, the transmitter was damaged by lightning. Jim Conrad and I heard TWR Swaziland testing for Asia on 15150 with music and English IDs from 0100 to closing at 0230. If you've been restricting your search for Bhutan 4690 to Wednesdays only, Alok Das Gupta in Calcutta reports in IDXCI DX Digest that NYAB was heard at 1230 on a Friday. Jim Young in California bagged R. Maldives Dec. 31 at 0056 with bird cry interval signal and 0100 ID; heard until 0135. Signals were extremely strong and the frequency 4754 was clear. After 0130 he also heard India--Bhopal on 4990.4, and Jammu on 4950. Jim also reports a new Vietnamese regional heard on 5089 operating at 1300-1400. Syd Osterman in Toronto has been monitoring Afghanistan on 4774.2 in the 1130-1230 period--altho not in Russian, the programming does not sound typical of Afghanistan; also heard with separate programs a bit later on 6230. Also, from Delhi 4860, the Indian Forces Program at 1235-1240. Derek Lowe in Arkansas says the West German regionals are being heard on clear channels--from 0615, peaking at 0700-0730 GMT: SFB on 6190, SDR on 6030 and BR on 6085. Terry Krueger in Florida heard the Cuban clandestine R. Abdala, Jan. 2 GMT at 0140 until 0206, on 7082, announcing 7080,with a very strong signal. Jay Novello in New York was surprised to hear R. Mexico International with a 3-minute segment in English, Jan. 1 at 2320 on 17765.

(Jan. 14 0100+, 16 2130+) Voice of Israel's prime-time American service is 'on' again--this time the target date is Jan. 31, on 11637, 9815 and 7412, in Hebrew at 2300, Spanish at 2330, English at midnite GMT, Yiddish at 0030, English 0100, Portuguese 0130, English 0200, Spanish 0230, and Russian at 0300. Cross your fingers. More on those plans for a shortwave station in New Orleans: /see LIP/. Clayton Howard tells me HCJB's 500-kilowatter is still in Indiana and may not be ready until mid-1980. Now a look at this week's pirate loggings: In Indiana, Mike MacCollum heard WDAB 6213, with a strong signal at 0250-0317, outside its scheduled times. "WHY" may have been the station heard Dec. 23 around 0705 on 3405. "WBLO" at 2330 on 3875 and at 0517 on 3880. And Radio Confusion International is supposed to test at 0000 GMT Jan. 20 on 7365 ± 10 kHz. Dave Mosier in California reports Moonshine Radio Jan. 1 on 7360 at 0558 past 0630. Don Moore in Pennsylvania heard WENJ, on 1615 kHz at 0520-0545. David Margritz in Nebraska reports Green River Radio on 7378 Dec. 29 at 0614-0807. The operator said he favors Wednesday and Friday nites in the 7340-7420 kHz range with 100 watts beaming east and west. WOWO 1190 Fort Wayne has changed its evening programming, and the HOLLYWEIRD REPORT has come to an end. The propagation outlook: Solar activity is expected to remain moderate until mid-month, then low, to moderate. The geomagnetic field should be quiet; except unsettled to slightly active around Jan. 17-20 and 23-27.

WHO'S BEHIND RADIO NOTICIAS DEL CONTINENTE??

by Roberto H. Iglesias (translated by gh)

Around May 1979, a station begins to broadcast on 9610 kHz, identifying itself as TIRL, Radio Noticias del Continente, also employing the slogan "La Voz de América Latina", which was later dropped. It carried out test transmissions, broadcasting folk music and Argentine tangos, with IDs and giving an address in Costa Rica. After the first half of May it used 9615, jumping later to 9658 kHz, and finally (in mid-June) returning to 9615, the frequency it always announced.

Regular programming began in mid-June, with news and commentaries about the situation in Nicaragua, adopting a decidedly anti-Somoza position of open support for the Sandinista guerrillas--even rebroadcasting Radio Sandino. The station also broadcast propagandistic commentaries of a leftist tone, against the various Latin American military governments, especially those of Argentina, Chile, Uruguay and Paraguay. Thus were included communiqués and expressions of support for the various terrorist organizations such as the BPR, Montoneros, Tupamaros, MIR, etc. The station's programming, like that of a clandestine, became the object of controversy in Costa Rica and abroad.

The predecessors of the station go back more than a decade, when the U.S. company RCA Victor obtained a license for 9615 kHz from the National Radio Control Department, putting on the air "La Voz de la Víctor", which then ceased to operate. This produced a debate over who should get the frequency, and it was even considered that TIUCR, Radio Universidad de Costa Rica, already operating on 6105 kHz, might get it. Nevertheless, for reasons unknown, the frequency passed into the hands of another American concern, Radio Millón, Inc., which announced with great pomp that its station of the same name would go on the air--even sending circulars to DX clubs--on 625 kHz with 1000 kW and on 9615 kHz with 50 kW. The mediumwave frequency had been used until then by Radio Omega, which changed to 575 kHz, and then became inactive. Radio Millón, nevertheless, never went on the air. Versions of the explanation of the frustrated inauguration vary from considering it all a bluff, to pressure from the U.S., through the FCC.

After all this, the license passed into the hands--it is not known just how--of the Costa Rican licenciado Francisco Aguilar Bulgarelli, a 'political friend of Kim Il Sung', according to Armando Vargas, director of Radio Monumental. The agreement by the Ministry of Security by which the use of the frequency by Bulgarelli was authorized, was never published in the Official Bulletin, as is required by law. Two years later, the journalist and deputy Emilio Piedra Jiménez disputed the validity of the concession, because it suffered from legal deficiencies. Thus, Piedra Jiménez informed the Cámara Nacional de Radio (CANARA), a group of private broadcasters, that the idea of installing a station with the characteristics of Radio Noticias del Continente dates from 1975. Sure enough, an Argentine professor of journalism at the University of Costa Rica, Raul Cuesta, says he had the idea to create a station like Radio Noticias del Continente, in México. But the idea was abandoned when his friend Echeverría was replaced by José López Portillo as leader of the Aztec nation. Cuesta then planned to install a station in Costa Rica, under the protection of that country's relatively liberal broadcasting legislation. To this end, Cuesta associated himself with an engineer by the last name of Cabilla--who supplied the capital to buy the transmitters --and with Bulgarelli--the only Costa Rican partner in the enterprise. In April 1978, at the same time the Congress approved a law excluding foreigners from organizations operating mass-communication media, a disagreement arose between Bulgarelli and Cabilla, and thus the license wound up in the hands of an obscure 27-year-old chemistry student, Ana Lorena Cartín Leiva, of whom nothing is known except that for some time she was Bulgarelli's secretary.

One year later, Cartín Leiva put TIRL into operation. She calls herself the director-owner of the station, but this explanation convinces very few. As a matter of fact, the Argentine magazine 'Gente' says Cartín Leiva--born in Nicaragua of Costa Rican parents and later naturlized as a Costa Rican--is simply an instrument of leftist and/or guerrilla elements. "Some Latin American intelligence services," says 'Gente', "are said to have conclusive proof that the station has been acquired by a group of Montonero terrorists called the 'Argentine Committee'."

It is very likely this last item is correct. In the first place, the station has as a musical interval a version on guitar of the march "Los Muchachos Peronistas", official song of the Peronist Party, into which guerrilla and ultra-leftist elements called 'Montoneros' had infiltrated. This group broke with Perón three weeks before he died, and then became clandestine as a guerrilla organization, reclaiming the ideological heritage of the 'leader'. Nevertheless, the Montoneros have been rejected by the majority of the Peronistas. Another thing--it must be noted that one of the regular announcers has a marked Argentine accent. Furthermore, most of the test transmissions were composed of Argentine folk songs and tangos. And, commentaries and news about Argentina occupy a great part of the transmissions, in which, invariably, the Montonero Peronist Movement is

ardently praised. In certain programs they evoke dates that the Montonero guerrillas consider 'memorable', such as 22 August 1972 (uprising at the Trelew prison) and in the same way, they praise guerrilla assaults such as the recent one in which a member of the Argentine Economic Ministry, Dr. Walter Klein, was the target. In the newscasts, the news are carefully selected and read with headlines like "Argentine military authorities torture and assássinate" and "Videla's winter means hunger for the people". Also frequently broadcast are folkloric themes of a 'social' tone such as those of the Argentine marxist-symp Mercedes Sosa. Working at the station as advisors are people who were notorious in Argentina during the height of the terrorist period, among them R. Puiggrós, who promoted guerrilla infiltration into the universities.

On August 1, 1979, the station moved to 9490 kHz, improperly appropriating a link frequency of Radio Nacional. 9615 was being interfered with, after 0400 GMT by KGEI. A week later, the station began to broadcast from 2300 to 0500 GMT on 9615, and with a repeat at 0500-1100 GMT on 9490. A short time later it broadcast all programming in parallel on the two frequencies (2300-1100 GMT on 9490 and 9615 kHz). A few days into September, the station used 9615 only for all transmissions, extending to 20 hours a day. While all this was happening, from the first week in August (when the call was changed from TIRL to TIRLR) the station began to suffer interference from a jammer in the form of RTTY, which followed the station when it changed frequencies. This jammer is probably located in Argentina, whose government sent a formal protest to Costa Rica for permitting TIRLR to operate. On October 1, TIRLR broadcast a hookup with Radio Libertad of Panamá, covering the ceremonies of the taking-over of the inter-oceanic canal.

Since August, a Mexican enterprise called Audioproducciones Azteca S.A., has been preparing the program "El Despertar del Cono Sur" with leftist propaganda attacks on the military governments of Argentina, Chile, Uruguay and Paraguay. This program, doubtless the 'strongest' on the station, became the main impulse for CANARA to publish in the middle of that month, a request protesting "the operation of a powerful radio station on shortwave which has as its almost exclusive aim, the fomenting of subversion in Latin America". On August 30, a mixed private/governmental commission was named to analyze the situation. At the conclusion of its study, the Minister of Security denied that the station was subversive, although he recognized that it was directed to a 'particular sector'. A few days before, the Costa Rican Confederation of Democratic Workers called for a session of the Internal Congress in order 'that the Secretary General inform us of his involvement in the shortwave radio station, along with other known communists". Also at that time, statements by the Nicaraguan Minister of Culture, the priest Ernesto Cardenal, were made known, revealing that he was on the council of directors of TIRLR. After this, nothing can surprise us. Behind TIRLR, there must be much more. Despite a petition published in La Nación of San José defining TIRLR as 'a commercial enterprise with nothing to hide", no one knows yet who are on the board of directors, nor how it is financed. Of course, no one believes that Cartín Leiva has at her disposal the multi-millions of money required to operate the station, despite the fact that this chemistry student says, "I have no connection with any movement nor any contact with any organization". To dispell doubts about the supposed commercial character of TIRLR, the station has included commercial announcements since October 1979, becoming the only commercial shortwave station in the world, and the first since the closing of WNYW in 1973. However, one must suppose that the income from ads cannot cover more than an insignificant part of operation costs. Among the advertisers are the socialist newspaper "Le Monde Diplomatique" (which also publishes ads for TIRLR), Sofia International S.A. of Panamá; Guía de la Industria Española, etc.

On 18 September 1979, a decree cancelled the grant of the frequency to TIRLR due to an 'official error in granting the frequency to the previous licensee' (Bulgarelli). The station sent telegrams to the Interamerican Press Society; to AIR; and to various groups pointing out that the measure constituted a 'threat to freedom of expression'. TIRLR received telegrams of solidarity from the Mexican P.C. /Communist Party? -gh/, from MIR, from APRA in Peru, etc. The station will continue operating until the Attorney General of the Republic issues and publishes the cancellation decree in the Official Bulletin. Meanwhile, TIRLR will continue operating on 9615 kHz at 1900-0500 and 0900-1845 GMT, fomenting guerrilla war in Latin America, from its studios on Avenida 6, 3284 San José, and from its transmitter on Puente de Piedra de Grecia, with 50 kW--susceptible to an increase to 110 kW.

Until now, the visible part of the iceberg is Ana Lorena Cartín Leiva (who is also the QSL-card signer). But the question remains: Who are the 'professors' of this chemistry student?

FROM THE EDITOR. Lotsa LIP this time, so some regular features such as DON'T YOU BELIEVE..., CLIPPING COPIES, THE SKYWAVE BULLETIN are missing. The original Spanish article on TIRLR will be available as a Clipping Copy.... To reiterate some RIB ground rules: Your editor welcomes all correspondence (especially if it doesn't require a personal reply, hi), and everything received will be considered for publication, unless you specify 'not for publication', in which case your wishes will be strictly adhered to. If you leave it to my (mis)judgement only, you may regret it! I expect that next month's RIB will close on Feb. 8 and will be mailed Feb. 13.

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compiled by David K. Maxfield

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